

Appendix A

Notice of Preparation and
Response to NOP





NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DWR Perris Dam Remediation Project EIR

To: Calif. Office of Planning and Research
Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Other Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report

Project: Perris Dam Remediation Project

Lead Agency: Department of Water Resources

Date: June 1, 2007

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the Lead Agency is beginning preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Perris Dam Remediation Project. Perris Dam, which impounds Lake Perris, is located 15 miles south of the City of Riverside in Riverside County approximately 65 miles east of Los Angeles. DWR has identified potential seismic safety risks in a section of the foundation of Perris Dam. There is no imminent threat to life or property. DWR is proposing to upgrade the dam by removing and replacing foundation material along a portion of the dam toe and adding a stability berm. The proposal includes installing soil-cement columns beneath some of the replaced foundation by means of deep soil mixing. In addition, DWR is proposing to replace the outlet tower and construct a new release channel to provide safe carriage of emergency drawdown flows.

DWR is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be studied in the EIR. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the project description provided in this NOP and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The EIR will be used by DWR when considering approval of the Perris Dam Remediation Project.

In accordance with the time limits mandated by CEQA, comments to the NOP must be received by DWR no later than 30 days after publication of this notice. We request that comments to this NOP be received no later than July 2, 2007. Please send your comments to the address shown below.

Please include a return address and contact name with your comments. Please send comments via mail or email to the address show below:

c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Email: tbarnes@esassoc.com
Telephone: 213-599-4300

A public meeting will be held to receive public comments and suggestions on the project. The scoping meeting will open to the public and held at the following location:

**Harrison Hall
Lake Perris Fairgrounds
18700 Lake Perris Dr.
Perris, CA 92571**

Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 5:00 pm

PROJECT LOCATION

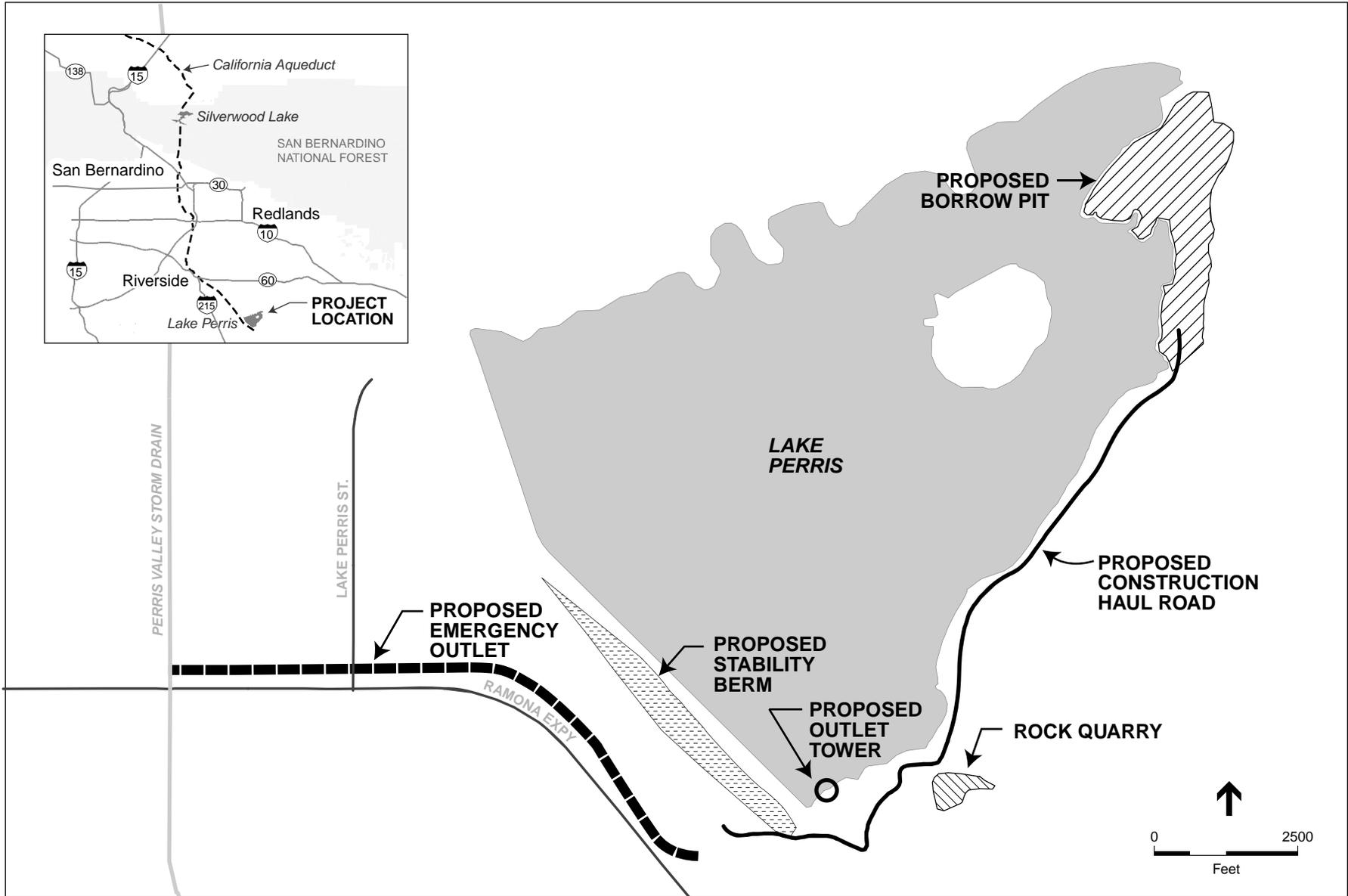
The Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates the State Water Project (SWP), which supplies water to numerous communities and millions of people throughout California. The SWP includes an extensive system of aqueducts and pipelines that convey water from the Feather River and Sacramento River watersheds through the Central Valley, terminating at Lake Perris in Riverside County (**Figure 1**). Lake Perris is entirely within the Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) located between the cities of Moreno Valley and Perris in an unincorporated area of Riverside County, approximately 15 miles south of the City of Riverside and 65 miles east of the City of Los Angeles.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Perris Dam is an earthfill dam completed in 1974 that impounds the Lake Perris reservoir. The dam and lake are owned and operated by DWR, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC), which supplies water for municipal and industrial uses throughout southern California. Water is conveyed from the East Branch Aqueduct of the SWP to Lake Perris via the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline. Lake Perris has a capacity of approximately 127,000 acre-feet (af) and a surface area of 2,292 acres when filled to normal design capacity, with a pool elevation of 1,588 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).¹ The dam crest elevation is 1,600 feet AMSL. Lake Perris is a multi-purpose reservoir used for water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and emergency water storage. The recreational opportunities at Lake Perris include swimming, boating, camping, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, rock climbing, and bird and animal watching. The LPSRA has approximately 1.1 million visitors each year.

In 2005, DWR completed a geotechnical investigation and seismic assessment of Perris Dam and concluded that the southeastern reach of the dam, (the “left reach”), is underlain by soil lenses prone to liquefaction. During strong seismic-related shaking, these soils could cause earthquake-induced deformation of the dam. The deformations could lower the dam crest enough to allow overtopping. As a safety precaution, the lake has been drawn down to a maximum elevation of 1,563 feet AMSL, resulting in a current surface area of 1,882 acres. This water level restriction results in a capacity loss of approximately 52,000 af, leaving the reservoir operating at approximately 60 percent of its normal capacity.

¹ The elevations stated in this document are based on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 which was used for the original construction of the dam. This remediation project will use NAVD 88. The difference is about 2.5 feet.



SOURCE: Street Map USA; ESA, 2007.

DWR - Perris Reservoir NOP . 206008

Figure 1
Perris Dam
Remediation Construction Area

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the proposed project are as follows:

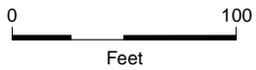
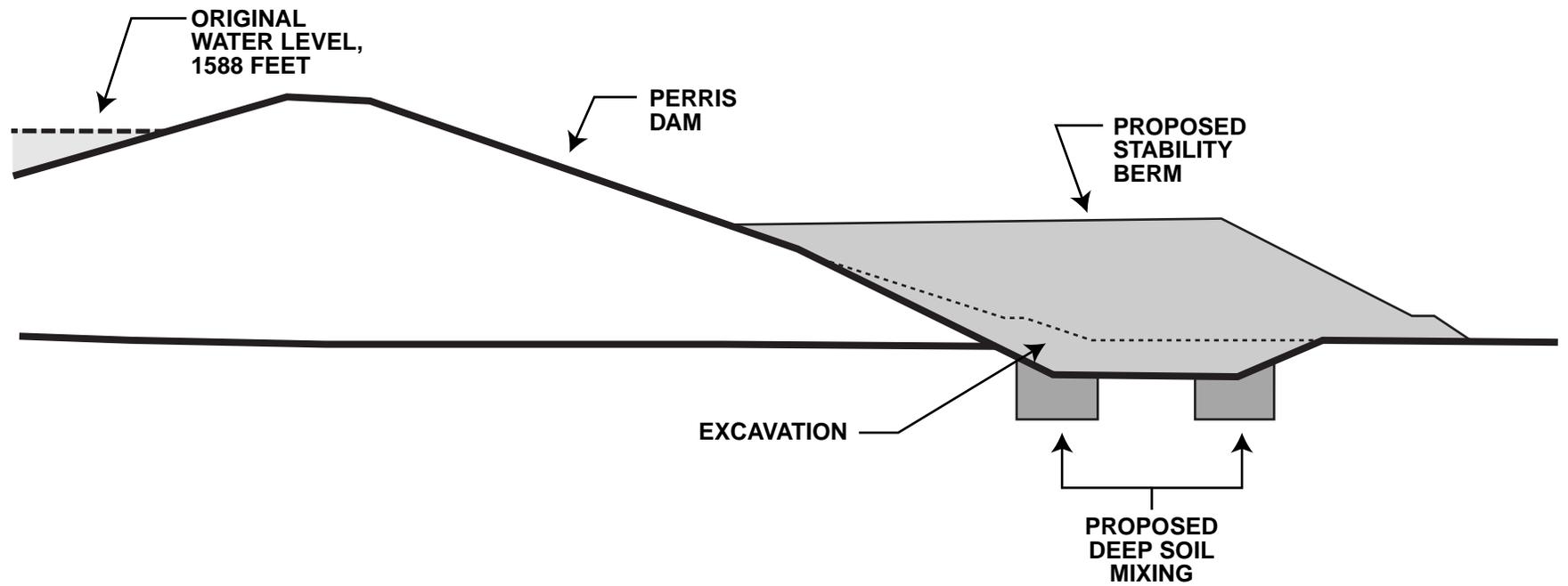
- Upgrade SWP infrastructure to meet current seismic standards in an economical and environmentally sound manner;
- Minimize the risks associated with seismic hazards;
- Enhance and restore public safety within the lake area and downstream of the dam;
- Protect, upgrade and restore the water delivery system;
- Maximize the beneficial uses of the LPSRA by restoring the reservoir to its pre-drawdown water levels.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Perris Dam Remediation Project includes three separate projects as described below: (1) Perris Dam Remediation Project, (2) Outlet Tower Retrofit, and (3) Emergency Outlet Release Facility. All three projects will be constructed without draining the lake in an effort to maintain the beneficial uses of the State Recreation Area.

Perris Dam Remediation Project

Perris Dam is an earthfill embankment that is 11,600 feet long and has a maximum height of 128 feet above original ground level. The embankment contains approximately 20 million cubic yards of compacted fill. DWR proposes to seismically upgrade the dam by improving the foundation material with deep soil mixing methods, excavating the toe of the dam to remove the liquefiable foundation material, replacing it with re-compacted engineered fill, and then constructing a stability berm on top of the replaced foundation. This remediation strategy will allow Perris Lake to return to its previous maximum operating pool elevation of 1,588 feet AMSL after construction. The blocks of soil-cement columns will be installed in the deepest and most liquefiable alluvial materials beneath the replaced foundation soil, as shown in **Figure 2**. Deep soil mixing increases the stability of the soil and reduces the hazards associated with deep excavations. Following deep soil mixing, the groundwater will be lowered by an array of pumping wells to facilitate the excavation and replacement of the uppermost liquefiable soils. Re-compaction is the most reliable method for improving liquefiable soils. A stability berm will be constructed atop the re-compacted foundation along the downstream toe of the dam as shown schematically in **Figure 2**. The berm would consist of approximately 2 million cubic yards of soil and 1 million tons of rock. As shown in **Figure 1**, the soil will be excavated from within the lakebed at the east end of the lake, and the rock will be quarried from the original rock quarry south of the lake in Bernasconi Hills.



SOURCE: Department of Water Resources, 2007.

DWR - Perris Reservoir NOP . 206008

Figure 2
Perris Dam
Cross Section

To convey the soil and rock to the downstream face of the dam, a haul road will be constructed from the east side of the lake, along the lakebed on the south side of the lake, and over a low spot on the Bernasconi Hills near the dam's left abutment.

Outlet Tower Retrofit

The outlet tower, built in the early 1970s, is a 105-foot tall, freestanding structure constructed in the lake near the left abutment of the dam. The tower contains 10 hydraulically operated 72-inch valves located at each of five equally spaced levels between elevation 1,503 and 1,567 AMSL with two valves at each location. The tower was constructed of reinforced concrete and is circular in cross section with an inside diameter of 26 feet and an outside diameter of 31 feet. The tower releases water from five selected levels to a 150-inch diameter horizontal tunnel at its base. The function of the outlet facility is to convey water to MWD's delivery facility just southwest of the eastern abutment of the dam and to have the ability to release water from the lake when required during emergencies for the safety of the dam. The structural integrity of the tower was evaluated in 2006 and was found to be deficient in shear capacity under current seismic loading which can cause a failure of the structure.

To remediate the stability of the tower, DWR evaluated options to either retrofit the existing tower or construct a new facility on land near the current tower. DWR is proposing to construct a new tower and abandon the old tower because retrofitting the original structure was found to be not feasible. The new outlet facility would be located approximately 400 feet from the existing tower. An area on the eastern shore between the hill and the lake would be excavated and the new tower constructed using dry construction methods (**Figure 1**). Once constructed, the excavation area would be extended by removing the soil plug at the edge of the lake to form an approach channel that would connect the new outlet structure to the lake.

Emergency Outlet Release Facility

When Perris Dam was initially constructed, there was little development between the dam and the Perris Valley Storm Drain. The dam's emergency release facilities were designed and constructed to release 3,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water downstream of the dam, allowing the water to form its own overland channel and resulting in an inundation area of 2,700 acres. Over time, the areas downstream of the dam were developed with residential land uses that could be affected should the emergency release facilities be needed. Currently, water released from the dam in an emergency could flood downstream residents because there is no conveyance to contain or direct the emergency flows.

The existing emergency outlet facility consists of a rectangular pipe (12 feet by 6 feet), slide gate, and bulkhead, capable of releasing a maximum of 3,800 cfs. The existing emergency outlet facility does not include a conveyance structure to

contain the water once released. As currently designed, any water released from the emergency outlet would form its own overland channel. DWR is proposing to either retrofit the existing valve or add a new valve to reduce emergency releases to a maximum 1,500 cfs. DWR would also construct a new emergency outlet conveyance channel that would completely contain and convey the maximum release from the dam to the Perris Valley Storm Drain. The new channel would cover a distance of approximately two miles and would skirt the north edge of the existing Ramona Expressway. **Figure 1** identifies the proposed route of the discharge channel.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Following the drawdown of Lake Perris in 2005, DWR and its water contractors evaluated options for the long-term operation of the dam and reservoir. Each evaluation took into account the three principal project areas: dam structural remediation, outlet tower retrofit, and emergency release facilities. Four major options were studied: (1) enlarging the existing dam to Elevation 1,640 feet AMSL, (2) retrofitting the existing dam to return the water level to Elevation 1,588 feet AMSL, (3) retrofitting the existing dam and modifying the storage capacity to stay at Elevation 1,563 feet AMSL, and (4) retrofitting the existing dam and modifying the storage capacity to Elevation 1,540 feet AMSL. DWR is currently proceeding with option number two above. The EIR will describe the alternatives considered and explain the screening criteria that were used to select the preferred alternative.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

The EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from construction and operation of the Perris Dam Remediation Project, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. Potential impacts of the proposed project are summarized below. The EIR will identify mitigation measures if necessary to minimize potentially significant impacts of the proposed project.

Aesthetics

The aesthetic qualities of the project areas, which lie entirely within the Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA), include both natural and human-dominated features. The recreation area includes the 2,300 acre reservoir and 6,000 acres of the neighboring Russell Mountains and Bernasconi Hills. The park attracts over a million visitors annually for its water recreation and surrounding natural beauty. The proposed project would permanently alter the dam and outlet tower area. However, the character and visual conditions of the LPSRA would not change significantly. Local aesthetics may be temporarily impacted during construction. The EIR will evaluate the proposed project for impacts related to aesthetic resources, including consistency of the project with the Riverside County General Plan, local ordinances and state and federal regulations.

Air Quality and Global Warming / Climate Change

The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Basin. Construction of the proposed project would generate emissions from construction equipment exhaust, earth movement, construction workers' commute, and material hauling. The EIR will evaluate the effects of construction activities on air quality as well as potential impacts on global warming and climate change. The EIR will develop mitigation measures if necessary to reduce the level of impact.

Biological Resources

The LPSRA encompasses a variety of wildlife habitats and is home to a wide diversity of plant and animal species. The project area includes important desert and riparian habitat for several threatened or endangered species including, but not necessarily limited to, the Stephens kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensii*), the Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and the Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Construction of the berm may remove portions of the 30 acres of woodland/riparian vegetation located in three segments at the foot of the dam. These riparian areas currently exist due to subsurface seepage from the reservoir. Construction will avoid direct impacts to the riparian habitat located on the northeast shore of the lake. This habitat is currently being maintained with a temporary irrigation system installed to minimize adverse effects while the lake elevation is lowered. The EIR will evaluate the potential impact of the proposed project on sensitive species and critical habitats including the existing riparian vegetation. The LPSRA is identified in the Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) as public/quasi-public lands. The EIR will evaluate the consistency of the proposed project with the MSHCP and the Riverside County General Plan, local ordinances, and state and federal regulations. Mitigation measures will be developed if necessary to adhere to MSHCP requirements and reduce the level of impact where possible.

Cultural Resources

Six archeological sites are known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Two additional sites are known to be currently inundated by the lake. Excavation from the borrow pit and road construction could uncover previously unknown archaeological or paleontological resources. Other historic resources may exist in the area. The EIR will assess the potential effects of the proposed project on cultural resources at Perris Dam and Lake. Mitigation measures will be developed if necessary to reduce the level of impact where possible.

Geology and Soils

The proposed project is located in a seismically active region. The objective of the project is to reduce seismic hazards posed by the dam. The remediation of Perris Dam will be subject to potential seismic hazards including soil liquefaction associated with ground shaking and potential transverse cracking of the dam. In

addition, construction activities could expose soils to increased erosion. The material used in the new berm will be mined from the lakebed and the adjacent original quarry. The EIR will summarize previous geologic and engineering studies conducted for Perris Dam to evaluate seismic and geologic hazards, and will also evaluate construction impacts to soils and unique geologic features in the region. Mitigation measures will be developed if necessary to reduce potential effects from the proposed project.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Excavation activities could uncover contaminated soils or hazardous substances that pose a hazard to human health or the environment. The EIR will assess the potential for encountering such hazards at Perris Dam and will develop mitigation measures if necessary to ensure that any hazards encountered during construction would be handled in accordance with applicable regulations.

Hydrology, Groundwater and Water Quality

Perris Lake affects the underlying West San Jacinto Groundwater Basin. Seepage from Perris Lake has been recognized since the dam was constructed. Seepage underneath Perris Dam has been monitored since 1973. Seepage from Perris Lake has significantly raised the local groundwater table and improved groundwater quality downstream of Perris Dam.² The EIR will evaluate the impact of the proposed project on surface hydrology, groundwater hydrology, and water quality and will develop mitigation measures if necessary to reduce potential effects to less than significant levels.

Land Use

The proposed project would not permanently affect or change any of the current land uses in the Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA). Temporary closures could occur along the Southeast shoreline and Bernasconi picnic areas during construction. Rock climbing and the multi-use trail leading from the climbing area could also be temporarily affected by construction. In addition, the emergency release channel would traverse a section of private land, including an existing fairgrounds and motor-cross facility, prior to reaching the Perris Valley Storm Drain. The EIR will evaluate the compatibility of the proposed project with existing and planned land uses in the region and will address strategies for mitigating disturbance to current land uses.

Noise and Light

Construction of the proposed project would generate noise that could affect residences, businesses, recreation areas, and other sensitive receptors near the project site. The EIR will evaluate the proximity of sensitive receptors to the

² Department of Water Resources, *Perris Dam Remediation Groundwater Study*, Project Geology Report 58-11-20, August 2006.

project site and recommend mitigation measures if necessary to ensure that the proposed project complies with local policies and ordinances to minimize noise impacts. In addition, Lake Perris and the surrounding region falls within the jurisdiction of the Mount Palomar Nighttime Lighting Policy Area. The lighting requirements protect various wildlife, birds and bats and are covered in the Riverside County General Plan. These requirements may affect night-time work and will be addressed in the EIR.

Population and Housing

Perris Dam is located in an increasingly urbanized section of Riverside County and directly above a growing population center, which includes residential housing and a school. Future population and housing growth in the area may depend upon the careful remediation of the dam. The EIR will describe population growth trends in the Perris Dam area and will assess project compatibility with local growth trends.

Recreation

LPSRA is a California State Park. The lake and neighboring Russell Mountains and Bernasconi Hills lie within park boundaries. Recreational activities at LPSRA would be affected temporarily during construction of the proposed project. However, once construction is complete, recreational activities would return to historic levels, or would even increase due to the enlarged capacity for boating, water skiing and jet skiing which result from the deepened eastern lakebed. The EIR will evaluate the effects of the proposed project on recreation at Lake Perris and surrounding areas and will develop mitigation measures if necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Traffic and Transportation

Construction of the proposed project may temporarily affect local transportation corridors. In addition, the March Air Reserve Base has an "Airport Influence Policy Area/Safety Zone Area III" referred to in the Riverside County General Plan with a perimeter and restrictions that may affect work near the toe of the dam. The EIR will evaluate the impact of the proposed project on traffic and circulation at the project site, including restrictions imposed by the Riverside County General Plan. The EIR will develop mitigation measures if necessary to minimize any potential effects.

Matrix of Comments

Commenter, Affiliation	Comment
Kirk Brus, US Army Corps of Engineers	Noted that if a federal interest is part of the subject matter project, then NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of NHPA must be applied. Also, requested that, if needed, a Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification application/permit be addressed.
Karen Goebel and Dee Sudduth, US Fish and Wildlife Services & CDFG	Requested that the DEIR address not only the impacts to all fish and wildlife resources associated with the dam remediation project, but also include an analysis of impacts to biological resources from lowering of the lake water level. Recommended that the DEIR analyze the potential direct and indirect impacts to species and their habitats. Concerned that the length of time it will take to complete the project will further degraded the least Bell's vireo habitat. Also concerned about the drawdown's impact on the fishery and angular use of the lake. Noted that DWR will need to either obtain take coverage or obtain individual State and Federal permits.
Gregor Blackburn, FEMA	Summarized NFIP floodplain management building requirements: 1) All buildings constructed in floodplain must be elevated above Base Flood Elevation Level; 2) A hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed prior to start of development and must demonstrate that the development would not cause any rise in base flood levels; 3) Upon completion of any development that changes existing Special Flood Hazard Areas, the NFIP directs all participating communities the appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic data to FEMA for a FIRM revision.
Gary Watts, Department of Parks and Recreation	Concerned that the reduction in recreational opportunities coupled with the long-term construction period is expected to negatively impact the visitor's experience. Requested that the EIR study the change in the character of the park's complex, impact on visitors and species, and effect on the park's recreation activities.
Delaine Shane, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Requested a 90 day extension of the review period.
	Requested that additional analysis and discussion be included in the requested areas to allow DWR decisions makers to determine whether this project would result in significant impacts to Metropolitan and its member agencies in providing a reliable supply of water. Requested that potential impacts to MWD's water supply resulting from the proposed project be included in the impact analysis of the Draft EIR. Recommended that the Draft EIR consider, as a feasible alternative, the decommissioning of the reservoir as a public safety measure.
Sheryll Del Rosario, Southern California Association of Governments	Determined that the proposed Project is not regionally significant per SCAG Intergovernmental Review Criteria and CEQA Guidelines.
Steve Smith, South Coast Air Quality Management District	Requested all appendices and technical documents related to air quality analysis be sent with the Draft EIR. Requested that all potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project be identified. Recommended calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing results to localized significance thresholds. If the project does generated significant adverse air quality impacts, all feasible mitigation measures should be used.
Brad Eckardt, City of Perris	Concerned about the impacts to air quality from mobile sources, such as trucking. Request for an analysis of how construction vehicles will impact roads in the city and an analysis of potential traffic impacts of an increase in recreation at the

Commenter, Affiliation	Comment
	reservoir. Requested that the DEIR address all potential impacts to vibration, noise, glare, and aesthetic on all sensitive receptors in the city. Requested information regarding the capacity of the emergency flow-out channel and its impact on the Fairgrounds. Requested that the DEIR address whether any efforts undertaken to mitigate impact, including irrigation, have proved adequate.
Habib Motlagh, City of Perris	Would like the following items to be considered: 1) The proposed discharge channel along Ramona Expressway shall be coordinated with the adopted Drainage Master Plan. This channel should be utilized for the purpose of emergency discharge as well as the daily drainage purpose; 2) Most of the traffic (construction and otherwise) generated because of your project will be utilizing Ramona Expressway, which is under City of Perris jurisdiction. The traffic report shall address this issue and discuss additional improvements on the proposed route.
Kathleen Dale and John Terell, City of Moreno Valley	Requested that the following issues be addressed: 1) Effects of proposed dewatering on groundwater levels in the project area, including any influence on movement of known areas of groundwater contamination; 2) Changes in inundation limits and depths in the event of a dam failure as a result of proposed improvements.
Teresa Tung, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conversation	Requested that the EIR evaluate potential direct and indirect impacts to proposed MDP facilities in the project area. Requested that the capacity of the interim Perris Valley Channel to convey the 1500 CFS released from the dam be evaluated. Recommended that a hydrology/hydraulic analysis should fully evaluate any potential impacts to the mapped floodplain. Noted that the project proponent will need to demonstrate that all project related activities within the District right-of-way is consistent with the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Also requested that the EIR address potential impacts to jurisdictional features.
George Hague, Sierra Club, San Geronio Chapter	Requested that if the lake increases in size over its original size then the DEIR must analyze the impact on plants, animals, and park usage. Would like to know how impacts to the San Jacinto Wildlife will be avoided when Fish and Game owns the land at the west side of the dam's base. Requested the inclusion of accurate maps of both the San Jacinto Wildlife and Lake Perris properties.
Malcolm McCassy, Starwest Motorcross Park	Concerned that the proposed emergency runoff channel would affect the fairgrounds aesthetic value and the marquee sign. Also the channel would eliminate more parking than the businesses could afford to lose.
Don A. Kazarian, Perris Auto Speedway	Requested to minimize adverse impacts from emergency runoff channel.
Ann L. Turner-McKibben, Friends of the N. San Jacinto Valley	Requested that the DEIR examine the extent to which this project will impinge upon the maintenance of wildlife populations on the designated mitigation lands in front of the Lake Perris dam and the proposed rock quarry site in the Bernasconi Hills. Concerned that the cumulative impacts of the project may place the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat in jeopardy of extinction. Concerned that the repair of the seepage problem will eliminate the riparian habitat in front of the dam.
Lou Ochoa, McCanna Ranch Water Company	Concerned about the depth of the repairs and the soil mixing that is proposed. Would like to be assured that the flow of the ancient stream underneath the pre-existing sub-grade to the Dam foundation is not affected.
Vince Agnifili, 46 th District Agricultural Association	Concerned about impacts from the emergency runoff channel on business at the fairgrounds. Would like more information regarding the channel and its importance.
Mary Ellen Krut, Cybernet Consulting Inc	Would like the opportunity to discuss how they can contribute to the project's success.

Commenter, Affiliation	Comment
Michael McKibben, geologist	Would like the following concerns to be addressed: 1) The quarry area has overly steep quarry walls that exceed regulation; 2) The Big Rock climbing area has historical and cultural significance and should not be disturbed; 3) The proposed location of the stability berm lies partly within current wetlands and other types of wildlife habitat; 4) By causing rises in the groundwater table, seepage has also significantly increased liquefaction potential in and around the Lake Perris area, particularly in areas where new housing developments are being proposed.
Bob Whitaker, race fan	Requested that the impacts on the racing community in the Perris area be taken into account.
Greg Holmes, Department of Toxic Substances Control	Provided the following recommendations: 1) The EIR should identify the current or historic uses at the project site that may have resulted in a release of hazardous waste/substances; 2) The EIR should identify the known or potentially contaminated sites within the proposed project area. For all identified sites, the EIR should evaluate whether conditions at the site may pose a threat to human health or the environment.
Gerald Zimmerman, Colorado River Board of California	No comment.
Comments from Scoping Meeting: June 20, 2007, 5:00pm, Harrison Hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concrete channel will be aesthetically unpleasing. • During the construction period, in case of disaster, what are the plans for people living down stream? • Is there a possibility of dam construction failure? • How are citizens notified in case there is an earthquake? • What magnitude seismic event was the dam built to withstand? What will the post-construction dam be able to withstand? • When will the water level be raised? Before 2012? • The new lake rules are causing problems. • How will watercraft manage the drawdown? • In what order will the repairs take place? • Has anyone done studies to find out the consequences of an emergency release? • Will the homes at the base of the dam be safe after construction? • Where will the berm be? • Who bears responsibility of an emergency alarm system? • Will there be any impact on Ramona Expressway traffic? • From a camper's point of view, noise and dust from construction will be disruptive. Has a conveyor system alternative been considered? • Consider combining storm drain in neighboring community with the emergency outlet extension. • Request inclusion of surrounding cities and the fairgrounds in the process. • What is the capacity of the emergency outlet extension? • Could a conveyor system be built to move quarried materials? • The owner of the fairgrounds would like to be kept informed regarding the project. Suggested that the storm drain be used as an alternative so as to not disrupt motocross.
Mark B, Perris City Council Member (comments provided at the Scoping Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that the city has been kept out of the loop of the process. Has a level of distrust of the project. • Has a master plan for a community with a drain adjacent to the emergency outlet. • Envisioned this lake to be like Castaic Lake.

Commenter, Affiliation	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would like to participate and requests that the City of Perris be kept in the loop. This will have a tremendous impact on the City.

Hello Tom Barnes:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) thanks you for mailing the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on the proposed Perris Dam Remediation project.

Comments on the subject matter NOP:

If a federal interest is part of the subject matter project, the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (Public Law 91-190) must be applied, as well as compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended, and Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

If a requirement exists for a Clean Water Act (CWA) 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application/permit on the proposed action, please ensure that this is also addressed.

Thank you for considering these NOP comments.

Kirk Brus
Phone 213.452.3876
E-mail: kirk.c.brus@usace.army.mil

Mailing address:

US Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
Attn: Kirk Brus (CESPL-PD-RL), Room 1430
Los Angeles, CA. 90053-2325



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92011
(760) 431-9440
FAX (760) 431-5902 + 9618



California Department of Fish & Game
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Ste C-220
Ontario, California 91764
(909) 484-0459
FAX (909) 481-2945

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/CDFG-4837.2

JUL 2 2007

Department of Water Resources
c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90017

Subj: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Department of Water Resources' Perris Dam Remediation Project (SCH # 2007061004), Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Barnes:

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), hereafter collectively referred to as the Wildlife Agencies, have reviewed the subject Notice of Preparation (NOP). The proposed project is located at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area between the cities of Moreno Valley and Perris in an unincorporated area of Riverside County, California. The proposed project would seismic retrofit the existing Lake Perris dam by improving the foundation materials through excavation and soil remixing. The project also includes other ancillary project features such as a new or retrofitted outlet tower, new emergency outlet release facility, construction haul road, and borrow site. Upon completion of the dam rehabilitation project, lake levels will be allowed to return to pre-emergency draw down levels.

The Department is responding as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources [Fish and Game Code sections 711.7 and 1802 and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA) section 15386] and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines section 15381). The Department is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, and administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program (NCCP). The primary concern and mandate of the Service is the protection of public fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Service has legal responsibility for the welfare of migratory birds, anadromous fish, and endangered animals and plants occurring in the United States. The Service is also responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

On June 22, 2004, the Department issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation

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Plan (MSHCP), as per Section 2800, et seq., of the California Fish and Game Code. The Service also issued Take Authorization for the MSHCP through a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. The MSHCP establishes a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permit. The proposed project occurs within the MSHCP Plan Area and is identified as Public/Quasi-public land.

Based on the Wildlife Agencies review of the NOP and several meetings with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), we are providing the following comments to assist with your preparation of a draft environmental impact report (DEIR).

Emergency Lake Draw Down

In October 2005, Lake Perris was lowered 25 feet as an emergency measure to protect the public until a means of addressing the seismic vulnerability of the dam could be identified and implemented. In order to implement the proposed project, water levels will need to remain at the lowered condition. Upon completion of the dam rehabilitation project, the water level of the lake will be returned to its original level. It is estimated that it will take six to ten years before Lake Perris water levels are restored. Because the emergency draw down of the lake is interdependent and inter-related to the dam rehabilitation project, the DEIR needs to address not only the impacts to all fish and wildlife resources associated with the dam remediation project, but must also include an analysis of impacts to biological resources from lowering of the lake water level. The baseline for assessing project related impacts needs to be the conditions prior to the lowering of the lake. This is of particular importance as negative affects to the riparian habitats surrounding the lake from the draw down are already evident. Because of the extended period for the lowered lake levels, the DEIR should identify the means to quantify and monitor the riparian habitats overtime, and what measures have, or will be implemented, to offset the impacts associated with the emergency draw down and dam rehabilitation.

State and Federally Listed/Sensitive Species

The proposed project (including the emergency drawdown of the lake and the remediation of the dam) will have the potential to directly and indirectly impact State and Federal Threatened and Endangered species including the least Bell's vireo (vireo), southwestern willow flycatcher, California gnatcatcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR), and other sensitive species and wildlife resources (neo-tropical migratory birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors). We recommend that the DEIR analyze the potential direct and indirect impacts to these species and their habitats. The DEIR should include the results of appropriate species surveys and any measures to avoid or minimize the "take" of listed species. The Department has provided DWR with the information on where listed and sensitive species were known to be present within the project area and locations of potential habitats which must be surveyed. Also, the Wildlife Agencies advised DWR to conduct protocol surveys for vireo and flycatcher this spring. While we want this

project to proceed as quickly as possible, we cannot complete our review and issue the required endangered species take coverage without the results of the protocols surveys.

Due to the emergency drawdown of the lake, the riparian habitat on the east end of Lake Perris where nesting pairs of least Bell's vireo are known to occur is exhibiting signs of stress. As previously discussed, the DEIR should include an assessment of the riparian habitat based on the total number of acres that were present before lowering of the lake occurred and the extent of the degradation as a result of the lowered water levels. We recognize that a temporary irrigation system has been installed in an effort to maintain the habitat during the draw down. However, because of the length of time it will take to complete the dam remediation and return the lake to pre-draw down levels, the Wildlife Agencies anticipate that further degradation of vireo habitat will occur. The Wildlife Agencies also have concerns how activities related to the dam remediation will affect listed species that occupy the riparian habitat, including indirect impacts due to noise, as well as utilizing the adjacent area as a borrow site (see comments related to the borrow site below). In addition, impacts to the California gnatcatcher and coastal sage scrub habitat should be assessed in conjunction with the proposed construction haul road. We recommend that these impacts be thoroughly assessed in the DEIR

On the west end of the project site below the dam, riparian habitat is also present and suitable for Threatened and Endangered species. Surveys for Threatened, Endangered, and other sensitive species that utilize this riparian habitat need to be conducted. Water seeping from the dam currently supports this habitat. The Wildlife Agencies are concerned that during project construction and following project completion, water will no longer be available to support this riparian habitat. Please address all potential direct and indirect impacts to this riparian habitat in the DEIR. The DEIR needs to quantify the riparian habitat by vegetation community and potential direct impacts to the habitat. In addition, all indirect impacts to species or the habitat should be identified in the DEIR (e.g. noise impacts, reduction or loss of water reaching the habitat).

The project site is located within the San Jacinto/Lake Perris SKR Core Reserve (Core Reserve) identified in the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency's (RCHCA) Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County (SKR HCP). The SKR HCP identifies impact minimization measures required for all public facility improvement projects within a Core Reserve. In addition, the SKR HCP requires that for each acre of SKR habitat disturbed in a Core Reserve, the sponsoring agency must acquire and permanently dedicate to SKR conservation a replacement acre of SKR occupied habitat. The location of the replacement habitat is subject to approval by the Wildlife Agencies. The project proponent proposes to construct an outlet channel below the dam for future emergency releases. The location of the proposed outlet channel is within the Core Reserve and would not only impact SKR and SKR habitat, but also cause fragmentation of the Core Reserve. The DEIR needs to address potential impacts to SKR and the Core Reserve, any proposed impact minimization measures, and the size and location of any mitigation areas intended to fulfill the 1:1 habitat replacement requirement.

The Wildlife Agencies are also concerned with potential indirect impacts (i.e. noise impacts) to sensitive species including burrowing owl and other raptors. Burrowing owls are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project and may be impacted due to noise and/or use of the haul roads. Other potential raptor nesting and foraging areas that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the project and that should be addressed in the DEIR include riparian areas and along the Bernasconi Hills.

Fishery Impacts

A detailed analysis of how the fishery within Lake Perris has been, and will be impacted and the proposed mitigation measures to offset these impacts needs to be thoroughly addressed in the DEIR. This analysis should include what the status of the fishery was before the lowering of the lake, how the lowering of the lake affected the fishery, how long after the project will the fishery take to recover, and what mitigation measures will be implemented to recover the fishery to pre-project conditions. Also, the DEIR should identify mitigation measures which will be implemented during dam remediation to maintain and improve the fishery during the extended drawdown period.

The Department recommends that the DEIR should include an analysis of how angler use has been affected by the drawdown and what mitigation measures will be implemented to increase the number of anglers using the lake during remediation and upon refill of the lake.

Outlet tower construction could have significant impacts on the ability of the DWR to recover the fishery within Lake Perris. The outlet tower is located in one of the best fishing location on the lake and the area will now be removed and closed to the anglers. Also, the DEIR must provide a detailed description on the timing of the tower construction and particularly the approach channel. The Department is very concerned with the potential fishery impacts associated with the construction of the new approach channel to the outlet tower. The DEIR must include the mitigation measures to protect the lake's water quality during construction of the tower and approach channel. In addition, the DEIR needs to address appropriate mitigation for the loss of public fishing access to the area around the new outlet tower and removal of large submerged rock structure in the area around the tower and approach channel.

Borrow Area

The Department is concerned that the borrow areas are likely to have significant adverse impacts to the fishery and waterfowl hunting opportunities. By removal of material from the east end of Lake Perris the project will impact a major spawning area. The proposed borrow area will reduce shallow water habitats and will be too deep for warm water species in the lake to spawn. Also, the borrow site and haul road will remove a significant portion of the pre-project fish habitat from the lake. By lowering the borrow site by 25 feet, the area will no longer support aquatic plant growth resulting in impacts to both fish and waterfowl species that have historically

used the area. The fish will no longer have escape cover during the spring, summer, and fall; therefore, their recruitment will be impacted. The proposed borrow area has been used by the Department for waterfowl hunting and this use will be permanently eliminated by the project. By lowering the area it will be unsafe for hunters to use the site and without shallow aquatic vegetation for waterfowl to forage on they will no longer use the area. Impacts to fish and wildlife resources as a result of the proposed borrow site needs to be adequately addressed in the DEIR. We recommend that the DEIR also identify appropriate measures to offset the impact of the borrow site. The Department recommends that an area 1.5 times the size of the borrow pit area be identified and improved to make it useable for waterfowl hunting. The DEIR will need to identify and mitigate any impacts associated with the conversion of the area into a waterfowl hunting area. The mitigation must include land acquisition and all the necessary funding to staff, maintain, and provide water for the newly create waterfowl hunting area in perpetuity. Also, the DEIR must identify how the loss of waterfowl hunting during dam remediation will be mitigated.

The NOP identifies increased boating recreation use of the east end of Lake Perris by deepening of the area. The east side of Lake Perris is one of the major fishing areas on the lake and under pre-project conditions was protected as a no wake area. If increased recreational boating occurs in this area it will have significant adverse impact on the fishery and angler use of the lake. With increased high speed boating in the area there will be increased erosion and sedimentation resulting in a loss of fish nests and recruitment. Also, the increased wave action will make the area less desirable to anglers and; therefore, result in a loss of angler use. The Department recommends that the DEIR identify the increase level of recreational boating in this previously protected area and mitigate the losses to the fishery and anglers. These potential impacts are significant and it may be necessary to identify other nearby lakes which could be enhanced and made available to anglers to offset the loss of angling at Lake Perris.

The Wildlife Agencies also recommend that the DEIR address how the deepening of the lake in the borrow area will affect the existing shoreline and associated biological resources such as the loss of shallow water habitats utilized by shorebirds, and potential shoreline erosion and loss of riparian habitats at the lake fringes.

Permits

As discussed during our project coordination meeting on May 23, 2006, the proposed project (drawdown and remediation activities) has the potential to result in the take of listed species; therefore, DWR will need to either obtain take coverage as a Participating Special Entity under the MSHCP or obtain individual State (2081 Incidental Take Permit) and Federal section 10(a)(1)(B) permits. If you choose to seek take coverage for listed species through the provisions of the MSHCP, the project must demonstrate consistency with the MSHCP and its associated policies and procedures including addressing the Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools policy (MSHCP pp 6-20), Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species policy (MSHCP pp 6-28), and Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (MSHCP pp 6-63).

Take coverage for SKR can be obtained from the RCHCA pursuant to their authority under the SKR HCP. To get coverage for SKR, all minimization and mitigation requirements identified for public facility improvement projects within a Core Reserve, including obtaining concurrence from the Wildlife Agencies on the location of any proposed replacement habitat, will need to be fulfilled.

Because the project will impact habitat associated with a lake, notification to the Department for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is required, pursuant to Section 1600 et. seq. of the Fish and Game Code.

The Department has been participating in meetings for approximately two years and wants the project to proceed as quickly as possible. However, the DEIR must fully address our concerns and identify all mitigation measures when it is submitted for our review.

The Wildlife Agencies appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed action. If you have any questions pertaining to these comments or would like to discuss our concerns, please contact Mr. Mike Giusti at (951) 926-7561 of the Department or Ms. Doreen Stadlander of the Service at (760) 431-9440 ext. 223.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Dee Sudduth
Deputy Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Game

cc:

Gary Watts, California State Parks and Recreation, Perris, CA



FEMA

June 14, 2007

Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes:

This is in response to your request regarding comments on the Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for the Perris Dam Remediation Project.

Please review the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the County of Riverside (Community Number 060245), Map revised August 18, 2003. Please note that the County of Riverside, California is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The minimum, basic NFIP floodplain management building requirements are described in Vol. 44 Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Sections 59 through 65.

A summary of these NFIP floodplain management building requirements are as follows:

- All buildings constructed within a riverine floodplain, (i.e., Flood Zones A, AO, AH, AE, and A1 through A30 as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated so that the lowest floor is at or above the Base Flood Elevation level in accordance with the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- If the area of construction is located within a Regulatory Floodway as delineated on the FIRM, any *development* must not increase base flood elevation levels. **The term *development* means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings, other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, and storage of equipment or materials.** A hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed *prior* to the start of development, and must demonstrate that the development would not cause any rise in base flood levels. No rise is permitted within regulatory floodways.

Tom Barnes
Page 2
June 14, 2007

- Upon completion of any development that changes existing Special Flood Hazard Areas, the NFIP directs all participating communities to submit the appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic data to FEMA for a FIRM revision. In accordance with 44 CFR, Section 65.3, as soon as practicable, but not later than six months after such data becomes available, a community shall notify FEMA of the changes by submitting technical data for a flood map revision. To obtain copies of FEMA's Flood Map Revision Application Packages, please refer to the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/forms.shtm>.

Please Note:

Many NFIP participating communities have adopted floodplain management building requirements which are more restrictive than the minimum federal standards described in 44 CFR. Please contact the local community's floodplain manager for more information on local floodplain management building requirements. The Riverside County floodplain manager can be reached by calling Mekbib Degaga, Senior Civil Engineer, Flood Control & Water Conservation Department, at (951) 955-1265.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Marshall Marik of the Mitigation staff at (510) 627-7057.

Sincerely,



Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch

cc:

Mekbib Degaga, Senior Civil Engineer, Riverside County
Garret Tam Sing/Salomon Miranda, State of California, Department of Water Resources,
Southern District
Marshall Marik, Floodplanner, DHS/FEMA Region IX
Sandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer, DHS/FEMA Region IX



State of California • The Resources Agency

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ruth Coleman, Director

Inland Empire District
 17801 Lake Perris Drive
 Perris, CA 92571
 (951) 443-2423
<http://www.parks.ca.gov>

July 2, 2007

Department of Water Resources
 c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
 707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
 Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Perris Dam Remediation Project

Dear Mr. Barnes:

The Inland Empire District of the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the aforementioned project. State Parks is a trustee agency as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

State Parks' mission in part is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by preserving the state's extraordinary biodiversity and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation. As the office responsible for the stewardship of Lake Perris State Recreation Area (Lake Perris SRA), we have an interest and concern about potential changes to the park's resources, including facilities, natural, cultural, recreational, and economic.

In general, as noted below, we request the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) include an evaluation of recreation, cultural and natural resource, and economic values. The conclusion of the evaluation should provide measures to minimize all potential and definite temporary and permanent impacts to the evaluation's purpose. We are committed to working with you to develop mutually acceptable solutions.

Project Description

We recognize the efforts to minimize disruption in beneficial uses of Lake Perris SRA. However, the drawdown has altered the visitor's experience. The reduction in recreational opportunities coupled with the long-term construction period is expected to exponentially affect the already impacted visitor experience, recreational opportunities, cultural and natural resources, economic factors and facilities. Nonetheless, maintaining the drawdown lake elevation below 1,588 has caused and will continue to cause a negative effect in the recreational and other values at Lake Perris SRA until the project is complete.

Discussion of Impacts: Dam Remediation

The Draft EIR should study the significant change in the character of the park's complex. As potential mitigation, an updated General Plan should be prepared or funded.

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To	Tom Barnes	From	Enrique Arroyo
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	951-940-5664
Fax #	213 599-4301	Fax #	

Mr. Tom Barnes
NOP for Perris Dam Remediation
July 2, 2007
Page 2 of 4

drawdown lake elevation below 1,588 has caused and will continue to cause a negative effect in the recreational and other values at Lake Perris SRA until the project is complete.

Discussion of Impacts: Dam Remediation

The Draft EIR should study the significant change in the character of the park's complex. As potential mitigation, an updated General Plan should be prepared or funded. The majority of our comments relate to the Dam Remediation component, as noted in the following sections.

Aesthetics

The Draft EIR should include detailed figures, maps, and other graphic images related to the following:

- East end aerial before and after;
- East end elevation before and after;
- Truck haul road aerial before and after;
- Truck haul road elevation before and after;
- Perris Dam aerial before and after;
- Perris Dam cross section before and after; and,
- Rock Quarry front view before and after from campground, marina, on the lake (on watercraft), and Power Cove.

Air Quality

The Draft EIR should consider the effect of airborne particles on park visitors (including those with allergies), facilities and natural resources, such as native and exotic plants and animals. Regular and seasonal wind patterns should factor into the analysis.

Biological Resources

The Draft EIR should identify natural resources within Lake Perris SRA including but not limited to bald eagles, least Bell's vireo, Southwestern willow flycatcher, California Gnatcatcher, Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, raptors, reptiles, and plants. In addition, the Draft EIR should provide measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to natural resources following consultation, if necessary, with regulatory agencies.

The Draft EIR should provide written material describing human interaction with resources to its contractors and others involved in entering Lake Perris SRA related to the three projects. The material may include information such as precautionary measures for protecting resources and safety awareness of resources (i.e., snakes, mountain lion, etc.). We request to be invited for the preparation of the written material and procedures for distribution.

Cultural Resources

The Draft EIR should identify procedures to follow upon discovery of previously unknown resources. We request to be consulted prior to the Draft EIR to share known cultural resources and to synchronize the policies of our departments.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The Draft EIR should consider the effect of hazardous materials and hazards on park visitors. Precautionary measures should be developed to ensure the public's health is not impacted.

Land Use

The Draft EIR should describe potential changes in the character of the park's complex. Furthermore, the Draft EIR should identify measures to mitigate significant impacts.

Noise and Light

If the project requires construction from any period from dusk to dawn, the Draft EIR should identify measures to avoid or minimize noise and light impacts to park visitors and natural resources.

Recreation

The Draft EIR should describe the effect of the projects on the park's recreation activities, including but not limited to, camping, boating, equestrian, and hiking. Furthermore, the Draft EIR should identify adequate mitigation to compensate the public's loss of recreational opportunities.

The Draft EIR should describe the effect of the projects on the lake's surface area. Any reduction in the lake's surface area will increase mitigation requirements from those preliminarily noted in the NOP.

The project appears to require the closure of the park's Bernasconi area, popular for its group camping, fishing, rock climbing, and equestrian uses. The Draft EIR should describe and illustrate the amount of Bernasconi area required for the project and measures to mitigate the potential temporary and permanent loss of recreation, cultural and resource values.

Bike/pedestrian path and equestrian trail are expected to be closed during construction. We request that the Draft EIR describe the effect of the temporary closure and identify mitigation measures.

The Draft EIR should identify the project's effect on the facilities in the Bernasconi area and throughout the park, including ramadas, structures, restrooms, paths and recreation amenities.

Traffic and Transportation

The Draft EIR should analyze the on-site circulation system for construction-related vehicles and the effect on park visitors and employees while driving, walking or on other modes of travel. Safety measures required to protect the public and employees should be identified.

Mr. Tom Barnes
NOP for Parris Dam Remediation
July 2, 2007
Page 4 of 4

The Draft EIR should describe the effect of the project on local and regional circulation, including traffic entering and exiting the park. The Draft EIR should also consider the project's effects on park visitors entering on modes other than vehicles, including pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian.

The Draft EIR should identify temporary and permanent closures of access points to Lake Perris SRA. In an effort to minimize negative impacts to law enforcement, public safety, state employees, park visitors and others, any temporary and/or permanent access impediments should be identified and measures should be identified to reduce impacts.

Outlet Tower Replacement

The Draft EIR should provide details on construction activities, potential effects on park's resources and opportunities, and measures to minimize impacts. In addition, the Draft EIR should evaluate the location of the new outlet tower and its potential impact on the park's resources.

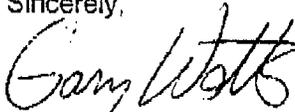
New Release Channel

Provide details on construction activities, potential effects on park's resources and opportunities, and measures to minimize impacts.

We suggest that a public relations campaign be developed to inform stakeholders of the construction project, any detours, and other stages.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Enrique Arroyo, at (951) 940-5664.

Sincerely,



Gary Watts
District Superintendent

cc: Ted Jackson, State Parks
Tony Perez, State Parks
Rick Rayburn, State Parks
Kathy Weatherman, State Parks
State Clearinghouse
DPLA Environmental Review Unit
Steve Watanabe, Department of Boating and Waterways
Mike Guisti, Department of Fish & Game
Doreen Stadtlander, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kevin Donhoff, Metropolitan Water District



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

June 20, 2007

Via E-Mail and Federal Express

Department of Water Resources
c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Request for 90-Day Extension of Review Period for the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Perris Dam Remediation Project (SCH No. 2007061004)

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Perris Dam Remediation Project. We agree that public safety is the highest priority and that the ultimate fate of Lake Perris Dam should be decided upon as soon as possible, however, Metropolitan is requesting additional time to respond to the NOP, pursuant to the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, §15103.

Given the current challenge associated with the State Water Project supplies over the next few years due to recent potential water management actions to protect the Delta Smelt, we feel that more time is required in order to determine the best course of action. The impact to water supply is a new issue that needs to be further evaluated in the dam remediation option before we can adequately comment on your NOP.

Due to the complexity and nature of this project and related issues, Metropolitan respectfully requests a 90-day extension of the review period for the Perris Dam Remediation Project NOP. We believe that this request is well justified as stated above. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (213) 217-6217.

Very truly yours,

Delaine W. Shane
Interim Manager, Environmental Planning Team

LIM/lim

(Public Folders/EPU/Letters/11-JUN-07A.doc – Tom Barnes)

Mr. Tom Barnes

Page 2

June 20, 2007

Copy: Mr. Lester Snow and Ms. Teresa Sutliff

Department of Water Resources

1416 9th Street

Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Terry Roberts

Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

1400 Tenth Street, Room 222

Sacramento, California 95814



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

July 2, 2007

Via E-Mail and Federal Express

Department of Water Resources
c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Perris Dam Remediation Project

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) notifying interested parties that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is beginning preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Perris Dam Remediation Project (Project). The Draft EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from construction and operation of the Perris Dam Remediation Project, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts.

The proposed Project includes upgrading the dam by removing and replacing foundation material along a portion of the dam toe and adding a stability berm and installing soil-cement columns beneath some of the replaced foundation by means of deep soil mixing. In addition, DWR is proposing to replace the outlet tower and construct a new release channel to provide safe carriage of emergency drawdown flows. All three projects will be constructed without draining the lake in an effort to maintain the beneficial uses of the State Recreation Area.

Metropolitan is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies charged with providing a reliable supply of high quality drinking water to 18 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other water-management programs.

As a result of receiving the NOP, Metropolitan requested, in a letter dated June 20, 2007, a 90-day extension under the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, §15103 (attached). DWR has not responded to our request. Therefore, Metropolitan, as an affected public agency, requests that additional analysis and discussion be included in the following areas listed below to allow DWR decision-makers to determine whether this Project would result in significant impacts to Metropolitan and its member agencies in providing a reliable supply of water.

Environmental Baseline/Settings

The environmental setting/baseline conditions must be based on and take into account the existing problems associated with Bay/Delta water deliveries and the uncertainties these problems create to Southern California. These deliveries are and will be unreliable due to environmental and regulatory constraints, and therefore must be considered in the context of the proposed repairs at Lake Perris. In that way, the Draft EIR can then adequately forecast potential environmental impacts and provide for appropriate, feasible mitigation measures.

Significant Environmental Impacts Analysis

CEQA Guidelines, §15126.2 states that “Direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects. The discussion should include relevant specifics of the area, the resources involved,...and other aspects of the resource base such as water...” Pursuant to this CEQA section, Metropolitan requests that potential impacts to our water supply resulting from the proposed Project be included in the impact analysis section of the Draft EIR and appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or minimize significant effects.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project

Metropolitan recommends that the Draft EIR consider, as a feasible alternative to the proposed project, the decommissioning of the reservoir as a public safety measure, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, §15126.6. As stated in this section, a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that will foster informed decision-making and public participation, must be considered in the Draft EIR.

Cumulative Impacts

While recognizing public health and safety as a primary objective, we feel that more time is required to determine the best course of action for all of the Lake Perris stakeholders. The current efforts to protect Delta Smelt in the Bay/Delta have created a large amount of uncertainty over the next several years with respect to the delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water. The preferred alternative is based on the assumption that SWP pumping operations will return to and remain at sustained levels in the near future. Yet, today such an assumption is not reasonable. The Draft EIR should address these changed conditions and potential cumulative impacts to Metropolitan’s water supply. The proposed Project has possible environmental effects that may be cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of the SWP long-term Delta Smelt issues (CEQA Guidelines, §15065 and §15130).

Additional points that should be addressed in the Draft EIR include:

- An alternative of a non-water supply facility;
- Address refill period and potential impacts to other facilities and SWP contractors during refill;
- Identify actions, mitigations, and costs associated with the draining of the lake for public safety;

Mr. Tom Barnes

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- Evaluate the biological impacts to the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) San Jacinto Wilderness Area adjacent to Perris Dam;
- Evaluate the potential impacts to the fishing opportunities within the reservoir as currently managed by the CDFG; and
- Address cumulative impacts with this project in conjunction with other projects related to Metropolitan's Lake Perris Pollution Prevention and Source Protection Program and the ongoing activities of Metropolitan.

Lastly, Metropolitan may provide future comments as the CEQA process progresses. We look forward to receiving a copy of the Draft EIR. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (213) 217-6217 or Kevin Donhoff at (213) 217-6359.

Very truly yours,



Delaine W. Shane

Interim Manager, Environmental Planning Team

LIM/lim

(Public Folders/EPU/Letters/28-JUN-07A.doc – Tom Barnes)

Enclosure: Metropolitan Letter Dated June 20, 2007

Mr. Tom Barnes
Page 4
July 2, 2007

Copy: Mr. Lester Snow
Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Terry Roberts
Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Steve Robbins
General Manager-Chief Engineer
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

Mr. Dave Luker
General Manager-Chief Engineer
Desert Water Agency
P.O. Box 1710
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Mr. Ralph Torres, Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Mr. Rich Sanchez, Chief
Division of Engineering
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Mr. Carl Torgerson, Chief
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ms. Teresa Sutliff
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Mr. Tom Barnes

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July 2, 2007

Mr. Rob Cooke, Acting Chief
State Water Project Analysis Office
Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ms. Jeanne Kuttel
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

June 20, 2007

Via E-Mail and Federal Express

Department of Water Resources
c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Request for 90-Day Extension of Review Period for the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Perris Dam Remediation Project (SCH No. 2007061004)

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Perris Dam Remediation Project. We agree that public safety is the highest priority and that the ultimate fate of Lake Perris Dam should be decided upon as soon as possible, however, Metropolitan is requesting additional time to respond to the NOP, pursuant to the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, §15103.

Given the current challenge associated with the State Water Project supplies over the next few years due to recent potential water management actions to protect the Delta Smelt, we feel that more time is required in order to determine the best course of action. The impact to water supply is a new issue that needs to be further evaluated in the dam remediation option before we can adequately comment on your NOP.

Due to the complexity and nature of this project and related issues, Metropolitan respectfully requests a 90-day extension of the review period for the Perris Dam Remediation Project NOP. We believe that this request is well justified as stated above. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (213) 217-6217.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delaine W. Shane".

Delaine W. Shane

Interim Manager, Environmental Planning Team

LIM/lim

(Public Folders/EPU/Letters/11-JUN-07A.doc - Tom Barnes)

Mr. Tom Barnes

Page 2

June 20, 2007

Copy: Mr. Lester Snow and Ms. Teresa Sutliff

Department of Water Resources

1416 9th Street

Sacramento, California 95814

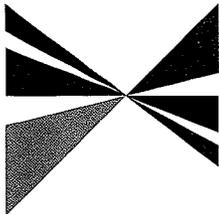
Ms. Terry Roberts

Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

1400 Tenth Street, Room 222

Sacramento, California 95814



ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

Main Office

818 West Seventh Street
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www.scag.ca.gov

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Riverside County: Jeff Stone, Riverside County - Thomas Buckley, Lake Elsinore - Bonnie Flickinger, Moreno Valley - Ron Loveridge, Riverside - Greg Pettis, Cathedral City - Ron Roberts, Temecula

San Bernardino County: Gary Ovitt, San Bernardino County - Lawrence Dale, Barstow - Paul Eaton, Montclair - Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace - Tim Jasper, Town of Apple Valley - Larry McCallion, Highland - Deborah Robertson, Rialto - Alan Wapner, Ontario

Tribal Government Representative: Andrew Masiel Sr., Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians

Ventura County: Linda Parks, Ventura County - Glen Becerra, Simi Valley - Carl Morehouse, San Buenaventura - Toni Young, Port Hueneeme

Orange County Transportation Authority: Art Brown, Buena Park

Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission: Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

June 25, 2007

c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: SCAG Clearinghouse No. I 20070335 Perris Dam Remediation Project

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Thank you for submitting the **Perris Dam Remediation Project** for review and comment. As areawide clearinghouse for regionally significant projects, SCAG reviews the consistency of local plans, projects and programs with regional plans. This activity is based on SCAG's responsibilities as a regional planning organization pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations. Guidance provided by these reviews is intended to assist local agencies and project sponsors to take actions that contribute to the attainment of regional goals and policies.

We have reviewed the **Perris Dam Remediation Project**, and have determined that the proposed Project is not regionally significant per SCAG Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Criteria and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15206). Therefore, the proposed Project does not warrant comments at this time. Should there be a change in the scope of the proposed Project, we would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment at that time.

A description of the proposed Project was published in SCAG's **June 1-15, 2007 Intergovernmental Review Clearinghouse Report** for public review and comment.

The project title and SCAG Clearinghouse number should be used in all correspondence with SCAG concerning this Project. Correspondence should be sent to the attention of the Clearinghouse Coordinator. If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 236-1856. Thank you.

Sincerely,

SHERYLL DEL ROSARIO
Associate Planner
Intergovernmental Review

JUN 26 2007

Doc 137186



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

June 9, 2007

Mr. Tom Barnes, ESA
Department of Water Resources
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Perris Dam Remediation Project.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The SCAQMD's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the draft environmental impact report (EIR). Please send the SCAQMD a copy of the Draft EIR upon its completion. **In addition, please send with the draft EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality analysis and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files. Without all files and supporting air quality documentation, the SCAQMD will be unable to complete its review of the air quality analysis in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting air quality documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

Air Quality Analysis

The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. Alternatively, the lead agency may wish to consider using the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved URBEMIS 2002 Model. This model is available on the SCAQMD Website at: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/models.html.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, that is, sources that generate or attract vehicular trips should be included in the analysis.

The SCAQMD has developed a methodology for calculating PM_{2.5} emissions from construction and operational activities and processes. In connection with developing PM_{2.5} calculation methodologies, the SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. The SCAQMD requests that the lead agency quantify PM_{2.5} emissions and compare the results to the recommended PM_{2.5} significance thresholds. Guidance for calculating PM_{2.5} emissions and PM_{2.5} significance thresholds can be found at the following internet address: http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/PM2_5/PM2_5.html.

In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts the SCAQMD recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LST's can be used in addition to the recommended regional significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the proposed project, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a localized significance analysis by either using the LSTs developed by the SCAQMD or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/LST/LST.html>.

It is recommended that lead agencies for projects generating or attracting vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis") can be found on the SCAQMD's CEQA webpages at the following internet address: http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mobile_toxic/mobile_toxic.html. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the decommissioning or use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

Mitigation Measures

In the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate significant adverse air quality impacts. To assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the project, please refer to Chapter 11 of the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook for sample air quality mitigation measures. Additional mitigation measures can be found on the SCAQMD's CEQA webpages at the following internet address: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html Additionally, SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook contain numerous measures for controlling construction-related emissions that should be considered for use as CEQA mitigation if not otherwise required. Other measures to reduce air quality impacts from land use projects can be found in the SCAQMD's Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning. This document can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/aqguide/aqguide.html>. In addition, guidance on siting incompatible land uses can be found in the California Air Resources Board's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective, which can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>. Pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed.

Data Sources

SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the SCAQMD's World Wide Web Homepage (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

The SCAQMD is willing to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project-related emissions are accurately identified, categorized, and evaluated. Please call Charles Blankson, Ph.D., Air Quality Specialist, CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3304 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



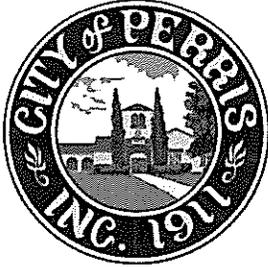
Steve Smith, Ph.D.

Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources

SS:CB:li

RVC070605-05LI

Control Number



CITY OF PERRIS

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION

135 NORTH D STREET, PERRIS, CA 92570-2200
TEL.: (951) 943-5003 FAX: (951) 943-8379

July 2, 2007

Tom Barnes
ESA
707 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Notice of Preparation DWR Perris Dam Remediation Project EIR

Dear Tom Barnes:

The City of Perris ("City") appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the proposed Perris Dam Remediation Project ("Project"). The City's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential impacts from the proposed Project that should be included in the DEIR. Please send the City a copy of the DEIR upon its completion to the undersigned. After reviewing the Notice of Preparation ("NOP"), the City believes that the Department of Water Resources ("DWR"), as the lead agency for the Project, should consider the following potential impacts in addition to those outlined in the NOP.

A. AIR QUALITY IMPACT.

The NOP describes the following work to be performed as part of the Project:

1. Deep Soil Mixing to improve the foundation material of the Dam;
2. Removal of liquefiable material;
3. Construction of a new berm along the existing wall of the Dam, which will use two million cubic yards of soil from the lake bed and one million tons of rock from the quarry in the Bernasconi Hills;
4. Construction of an internal haul road for the transportation of solid and rock materials;
5. Excavation for new outlet tower; and
6. Construction of new outlet channel of approximately 2 miles.

The City anticipates that each of the above activities will create significant dust and airborne particles from the construction equipment, earth work, etc., and acknowledges that the NOP raises these potential impact. However, we wish to also stress that the potential impacts to air quality from mobile sources, such as trucks hauling the materials, are not specifically raised in the NOP. These activities would appear to have a potential impact to air quality, especially to the City and surrounding communities.

B. TRAFFIC.

Each of the work elements of the Project identified in Section A above will presumably require trucks and other construction related vehicles and equipment to use the roads in and around the City. The DEIR should adequately address the routes such construction traffic would likely impact and the level of such impacts. Additionally, the DEIR should analyze any potential alternative routes to avoid impacts to the City, including residential neighborhoods adjacent to the Project.

The NOP also explains that the Project may ultimately result in an increase in recreational activities when the capacity of the Dam is enlarged. Recreational users already use the Ramona Expressway to access the Dam. The Ramona Expressway currently operates at poor Levels of Service at peak hours. Accordingly, the City would like to have the DEIR address any reasonably foreseeable impacts to City streets, including but not limited to the Ramona Expressway, from the anticipated increase in recreational activities at the Dam.

The NOP does not seem to address potential traffic impacts to the surrounding areas, including the City. Instead, the NOP seems to address circulation impact of the Project "at the Project Site." The City would like to assure that the DEIR adequately analyzes traffic impacts to the surrounding areas, including the City.

C. VIBRATION, NOISE, GLARE AND AESTHETIC IMPACTS.

Each of the work elements of the Project identified in Section A above will presumably impact the City through the creation of vibration and noise during construction activities. Additionally, insofar as some activities may occur in the evening hours, the impacts could include glare from lighting used during construction. The NOP does not seem to address these potential impacts, including from mobile sources such as trucks, equipment and other vehicles used for the Project. The Project will further impact the aesthetic quality of the area surrounding the southern boundary of the Project site. Given that residential neighborhoods in the City are located immediately southwest of the Project location, the City would like to have the DEIR address all potential impacts related to vibration, noise, glare and aesthetic on all sensitive receptors in the City, including the aforementioned residential neighborhood and users of the Ramona Expressway.

D. NEW OUTLET TOWER AND CONSTRUCTION OF CHANNEL.

The City understands that the proposed Project seeks to provide an emergency flow-out channel leading to the Perris Valley Storm Drain. The City would like to assure that the DEIR

adequately addresses any potential to over tax such storm drain during high rain periods. Additionally, the proposed channel leading to the storm drain should be analyzed to ascertain any flooding potential to areas within the City, including nearby homes and the Ramona Expressway.

The NOP also explains that the proposed channel is anticipated to interfere or disrupt certain property, including the Fairgrounds and a motocross track in the City. The City would appreciate having an opportunity to comment on such potential impacts and proposed alternatives to the proposed route of such channel.

E. FEASIBILITY OF MITIGATION MEASURES.

The City understands that the financial resources required from the Project are estimated at \$460,000,000, which will be shared by three water agencies, the Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency and Metropolitan Water District. In light of this significant cost, the City would like to assure that there remain sufficient funds available for such agencies to perform other mitigation projects or measures related to the Project or surrounding areas, including the City.

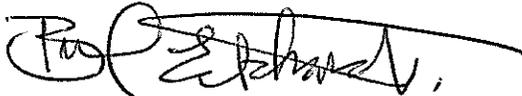
F. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE.

We understand that the water levels at the Dam have already been reduced by approximately 25 feet before any impacts have been studied. Although the City acknowledges that the reduction of the water level was implemented to avoid any flooding hazards due to findings that the Dam is inadequate, there seem to have been impacts to some outlining areas of the lake within the Dam, including some plant and animal habitat. The City requests that the DEIR address whether any efforts undertaken by DWR to mitigate such impact, including irrigation, have proved adequate.

The City is willing to work with DWR as the lead agency to ensure that project-related impacts to the City and surrounding areas are accurately identified, and evaluated. Please feel free to contact the undersigned at (951) 943-5003 if you have any questions or comments regarding this letter.

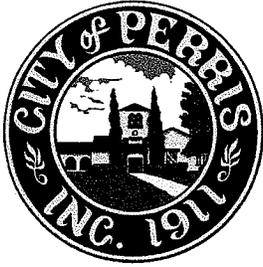
Very truly yours,

CITY OF PERRIS



Brad Eckhardt
Planning Manager

Cc: Eric Dunn, City Attorney
Richard Belmudez, City Manager



CITY OF PERRIS

HABIB MOTLAGH, CITY ENGINEER

July 24, 2007

Mr. Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Lake Perris Dam NOP (P8-000)

Dear Mr. Barnes,

The City of Perris has previously submitted some of their comments in regards to the NOP. I also understand that there will be future opportunities for comments once the EIR is out for public review and comment. At this time, you may want to consider the following items:

- The proposed discharge channel along Ramona Expressway shall be coordinated with the adopted Drainage Master Plan. This channel should be utilized for the purpose of emergency discharge as well as the daily drainage purpose.
- Most of the traffic (construction and otherwise) generated because of your project will be utilizing Ramona Expressway, which is under City of Perris jurisdiction. The traffic report shall address this issue and discuss additional improvements on the proposed route.

Again, thank you for allowing us to comment on NOP. Please call if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

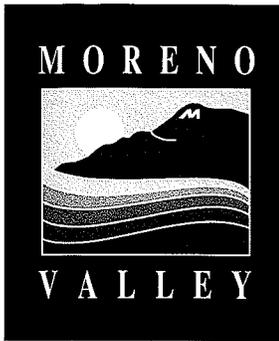

Habib Motlagh
City Engineer

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2007

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
CITY OF PERRIS

Cc: Brad Eckhardt, Planning Manager



Community Development Department
Planning Division

14177 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 88005
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-0805
Telephone: 951.413.3206
FAX: 951.413.3210

JUN 9 6 2007

June 20, 2007

Tom Barnes
ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Perris Dam Remediation Project
Response to Notice of Preparation

Dear Mr. Barnes:

The City of Moreno Valley has reviewed the June 1, 2007 Notice of Preparation for the referenced project. Based upon the project information provided in the NOP, the City of Moreno Valley requests that the following issues be addressed in the forthcoming EIR:

1. Hydrology, Groundwater and Water Quality – effects of proposed dewatering upon groundwater levels in the project area, including any influence on movement of known areas of groundwater contamination.
2. Hydrology, Groundwater and Water Quality – changes in inundation limits and depths in the event of dam failure as a result of the proposed improvements.

We look forward to the opportunity to review the draft Environmental Impact Report. We understand the document will be released in electronic format and will be available for review online. The City is amenable to reviewing the document in electronic format, and will request paper copies of relevant sections if necessary.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathleen Dale at (951) 413-3228.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Dale
Associate Planner

John C. Terell, AICP
Planning Official



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

June 28, 2007

Department of Water Resources
c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Re: Notice of Preparation of
Environmental Impact Report for the
Perris Dam Remediation Project

This letter is written in response to the CEQA Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Department of Water Resources' proposed Perris Dam Remediation Project. The proposed project would consist of the Perris Dam Remediation, the Outlet Tower Retrofit, and the Emergency Outlet Release Facility extending from the Perris Valley Channel to the Perris Dam. The proposed project is located within the city of Perris and the Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) has the following comments and concerns that should be addressed:

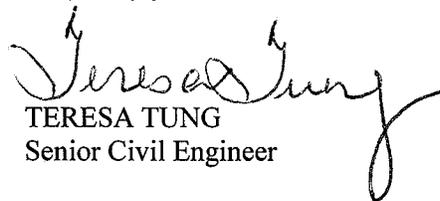
1. The proposed project is located within the District's Perris Valley and Perris Valley Channel Master Drainage Plans (MDP). When fully implemented, these MDP facilities will provide flood protection to relieve those areas within the plan of the most serious flooding problems and will provide adequate drainage outlets. The EIR should include an exhibit that shows the MDP facilities within and adjacent to the proposed project area. The proposed Emergency Outlet Release Facility may conflict with the alignments of master planned facilities. The EIR should evaluate potential direct and indirect impacts to proposed MDP facilities in the project area. The District's MDP facility maps can be viewed online at www.floodcontrol.co.riverside.ca.us. To obtain further information on the MDP and the proposed District facilities, contact Mark Wills of the District's Planning Section at 951.955.1282.
2. Please be advised that the District owns and operates the interim Perris Valley Channel. The existing earthen channel does not have the capacity to convey the FEMA estimated 100-year peak flow of 11,300 CFS. The capacity of the interim Perris Valley Channel to convey the 1,500 CFS released from the dam should be evaluated. A probability analysis of peak flows and the simultaneous release from Perris Dam should be completed. In all cases, the potential of inundation of the surrounding areas exists and this limit should be identified for various storm events. The potential physical impacts to the existing channel associated with any changes in flow rates and velocities, and diversions or concentrations of flows should be evaluated in a detailed hydrologic/hydraulic analysis. The hydraulic analysis should also demonstrate the effects of the 1,500 CFS release on the Perris Valley Channel design water surface elevation. The need for and any potential impacts associated with any offsite drainage improvements, such as energy dissipaters, should be evaluated in the EIR as well. The District's access along the Perris Valley Channel will need to be preserved. Any work that involves District right of way, easements or facilities will require an encroachment permit or other approval from the District. Any construction within road right-of-way that may impact District's existing facilities should also be coordinated with the District. To obtain further information on encroachment permits or existing facilities, contact Ed Lotz of the District's Encroachment Permit Section at 951.955.1266.

Re: Notice of Preparation of
Environmental Impact Report for the
Perris Dam Remediation Project

3. A portion of the proposed Emergency Outlet Release Facility near the Perris Valley Channel is located within the 100-year Zone A floodplain as delineated on the Federal Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Community Panel Number 060258 0005D, issued in conjunction with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The previously recommended hydrology/hydraulic analysis should fully evaluate any potential impacts to the mapped floodplain. The City of Perris is responsible for compliance with the FEMA floodplain management regulations within the city limits. For additional information regarding this matter please contact the City of Perris or Mekbib Degaga of the District's Floodplain Management Section at 951.955.1265.
4. The District is a permittee under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). For purposes of procuring an encroachment permit or other District approval, the project proponent will need to demonstrate that all project related activities within the District right-of-way is consistent with the MSHCP. To accomplish this, the CEQA document should include a MSHCP consistency report with all of its supporting documents and provide adequate surveys and mitigation in accordance with all applicable MSHCP requirements. Please be advised that the proposed project would affect MSHCP public/quasi public lands associated with the Perris Valley Channel right of way. The MSHCP consistency report should address, at a minimum, Sections 3.2, 3.2.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.3.2, 7.5.3 and Appendix C of the MSHCP.
5. The proposed project may impact jurisdictional features (e.g. waters of the United States, streambeds, wetlands) that are regulated by State and Federal agencies through Sections 404 and 401 of the federal Clean Water Act and Section 1602 of the State Fish and Game Code. The EIR should address potential impacts to jurisdictional features. Any regulatory permits obtained by the project proponent will need to be reviewed and approved by the District prior to the District's approval of activities within existing District facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation. Please forward any subsequent environmental documents regarding the project to my attention at this office. Any further questions concerning this letter may be referred to Randy Sheppard at 951.955.1306 or me at 951.955.1233.

Very truly yours,


TERESA TUNG
Senior Civil Engineer

c: TLMA
Attn: David Mares
Ed Lotz
Mark Wills
Mekbib Degaga

RS:mcv
P8\114592



SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER

4079 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501 (951) 684-6203
Membership/Outings (951) 686-6112 Fax (951) 684-6172

*Regional Groups Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties: Big Bear,
Los Serranos, Mojave, Moreno Valley, Mountains, Tahquitz.*

Mr. Tom Barnes
707 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450
Los Angeles CA 90017

July 2, 2007

Re: Lake Perris Dam Remediation Notice of Preparation

The Sierra Club appreciates this opportunity to express some concerns that need to be addressed in this Draft EIR.

Will the lake's footprint increase its size over its size prior to your intentional downsizing? Or will it allow for an increase in size? If the answer is yes, then the DEIR must analyze the impacts on animals, plants and park usage. For example, have Stephens' Kangaroo Rats (SKR) populated lands that were once under water, and will your plan again flood those areas? What happens to SKR when the lake is increased in size beyond its historic high levels?

It is the Sierra Club's understanding that the San Jacinto Wildlife (SJWA) is both an SKR reserve and a multi-species reserve, as is Lake Perris. How are you going to avoid impacts to the SJWA and its mission when Fish and Game owns and manages the land at the west side of the dam's base? How will you maintain the riparian habitat found therein for both the short and the long term?

An accurate map of both the SJWA and Lake Perris properties must be included. You must indicate on the maps which areas will be impacted during the remediation process and a detailed explanation of the causes and size of the impacts and what habitat will be disturbed or destroyed. This includes roadways and staging areas. How will the project mitigate for what will be a significant impact? What is the cumulative impact on all the natural resources?

Each impacted natural resource should have several alternatives provided in the DEIR, which will lessen the impact to these multi-species reserves.

Given that you are spending millions on this project, where is the \$212,000 annual monies that the California State Parks and Recreation and the California Department of Fish and Game promised to give towards the management of SKR? How much take of SKR and other endangered or threatened species will occur during and after this project?

What measures will be taken to lessen impacts on air quality from diesel fuel, dust, and other causes? What project alternatives could lessen these impacts?

Please make sure that I receive a hard copy of both the DEIR and the Final EIR, as well as timely notice of all meetings that relate to this project.

Sincerely,

George Hague
Conservation Chair
Moreno Valley Group of the Sierra Club
26711 Ironwood Avenue
Moreno Valley, California 92555-1906
Phone: 951-924-0816
Fax: 951-243-7678

} use this address
for sending documents
and information.



June 29, 2007

Mr. Tom Barnes
ESA Water
707 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

VIA EXPRESS MAIL
VIA EMAIL: tbarnes@esaassoc.com
VIA FACSIMILE: 213-599-4301

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I am responding on behalf of Dover Images, Ltd. dba Starwest Motocross Park, in opposition to the proposed Lake Perris Dam emergency runoff channel. Even though information that has been made available to us has been very limited, and varies depending on who we are talking to from your organization, we understand an emergency flood channel is proposed to run from Ramona Expressway onto the Fairgrounds' property, approximately 150 feet from the edge of the blacktop.

Starwest Motocross Park has been on the Lake Perris Fairgrounds since 1991. It currently enjoys approximately a quarter million visitors annually. 85% of who are families and kids ranging from 5 to 17 year of age, boys and girls alike. In many cases, the father and the children all ride. Moreover, all riders are required to be a member of the American Amateur Racer Association, which provides insurance cards with an additional excess medical benefit available to each member. There are presently over 40,000 members which pay an annual fee to join.

In the last three years, Starwest has made hundreds of thousands of dollars in tenant improvements, including planting scenic dust and noise filtering trees and irrigation in the proposed path of this channel. Our entire infrastructure runs along the front portion closest to the street, including lights, electrical, transformers, sprinkler timers, and our 4-foot sewer line and manhole covers. One very important aspect to the success of all the businesses on the fairgrounds is the aesthetic value as you drive by on Ramona Expressway and the excitement you feel entering the fairgrounds for its many activities. The proposed channel would affect the fairgrounds' marquee sign that all the businesses advertise on. The fairgrounds and its related businesses, such as Starwest, battle with parking issues every year. The proposed path of this flood channel would eliminate more parking than the grounds and its businesses can withstand.



The motocross park and other businesses on the fairgrounds, along with the Fair, have really come alive in the last few years. None of the businesses could withstand even the extensive construction of the proposed flood channel, not to mention dust, dirt, debris, and the blockage of entrance roads all the way down through three signal lights. We desperately need to work together to devise a plan that obviously allows your very important project to be completed without wiping out one of the most popular recreation areas in Southern California with our visitors coming from all around the nation, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America. Not only would the loss of over a million visitors a year to the fairgrounds have a striking blow on its tenants, but it would have enormous economic impact on the surrounding business communities.

We look forward to the opportunity of meeting and working with you on an equitable solution for all parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm McCassy", written in a cursive style.

Malcolm McCassy

cc: Robert D. Coviello, Esq.
Vince Agnifili, Fairgrounds General Manager

Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Pursuant to the "Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report" for the Perris Dam Remediation Project I would like to make the following comments.

I own and operate the Perris Auto Speedway located on the Lake Perris Fairgrounds. We have been a Renter on the Fairgrounds for the past twelve years. We host and produce a minimum of 45 events and shows beginning in February each year and conclude our schedule in late November. After reviewing the Notice of Preparation it is not clear if our operations will be impacted during the remediation project. However, once the details on the emergency outlet are completed it may have a potential impact. Should there be an impact we would request that every option be explored as to minimize any adverse impacts.

The Fairgrounds is very dependent on the success of their Renters. Any impacts that adversely affect the Renters will directly impact the Fairgrounds as well.

Thank you for your attention to this very important project.

Sincerely,

Don A. Kazarian
President
Oval Entertainment, LLC
Perris Auto Speedway

FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
P.O. Box 9097
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-9097

2 July 2007

Via FAX (213-599-4301) and E-Mail

Mr. Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Barnes:

RE: Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Perris Dam Remediation Project, Riverside County, CA

The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley are providing the following comments in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Perris Dam Remediation Project. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We are concerned that the NOP fails to acknowledge a number of important wildlife conservation milestones and issues of mandatory significance associated with the Lake Perris project site.

The lands in front of the Lake Perris Dam are presently included within the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) San Jacinto Wildlife Area. These lands were transferred to the DFG as a result of the "Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Mitigation of State Water Project (SWP) Wildlife Losses in Southern California" date October 23, 1979. The 1979 Mitigation Agreement entered into by DWR, DFG, and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) provides in part :

"The following acreage of SWP lands in Southern California (Lake Perris) shall be designated and made available for wildlife mitigation purposes. Uses of these lands for other purposes will not be allowed if such use impinges upon the maintenance of wildlife populations, except as needed for SWP operations. If DWR requires any of these lands for SWP operations, DWR will replace such lands taken with other lands acceptable to DFG."

The Draft EIR needs to examine the extent to which this project will impinge upon the maintenance of wildlife populations on the designated mitigation lands in front of the Lake Perris dam and the proposed rock quarry site in the Bernasconi Hills. This analysis should specifically address the need for wildlife mitigation replacement lands.

In 1995, a substantial amount of the lands in front of the Lake Perris dam were included with the Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) habitat reserve pursuant to the federal/state SKR Habitat Conservation Plan (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, RCHCA). It appears project construction activities in front of the dam as well as the soil excavation operations at the east end of the lake will result in

additional take of SKR contrary to the HCP and the federal Endangered Species Act. We are concerned this project on a cumulative basis may well place the SKR in jeopardy of extinction. Cumulative impacts of concern include the recent loss of the March SKR Reserve, the overlay of the western Riverside County MSHCP on the SKR reserve system, and future SWP operational needs at Lake Perris. The Draft EIR needs to provide an adequate cumulative analysis of this SKR issue.

In 2004, Lake Perris State Recreation Area was included as a principal reserve in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The existing riparian habitat on the east end of the lake comprises approximately 50 acres of important habitat. In addition approximately 20 acres of riparian habitat has developed in front of the dam due to the dam seepage problem. Both of these areas provide critical habitat for numerous species including the endangered Least Bell's vireo. We anticipate the repair of the seepage problem will eliminate the riparian habitat in front of the dam. In addition it appears the proposed excavation of the east end of the lake will adversely impact the extensive riparian values located there. The Draft EIR needs to recognize and apply the MSHCP policies and procedures for the Protection Of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Area (MSHCP Section 6.2.1).

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project and look forward to reviewing the Draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Turner-McKibben, President
(951) 924-8150
e-mail: northfriends@northfriends.org



MCCANNA RANCH

WATER COMPANY

Department of Water Resources

C/o Tom Barnes

707 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450
Los Angeles, Ca 90017

June 20, 2007

Re; Lake Perris Dam Remediation

The McCanna Ranch Water Company has been authorized as a public necessity to serve the Villages of Avalon through a pre-existing underground stream. This stream has historically been producing water to the local ground water basin allowing for a large area of farmlands and now residential neighborhoods, parks and schools.

The concern of the MCRWC and such repairs to the foundation to the Perris dam are related to the depth of the repairs and the soils mixing that are proposed. The water source for the MCRWC is the ancient streambed underneath the pre existing sub-grade to the Dam foundation. We need to be assured the flow of the ancient stream is not impacted.

As importantly I anticipate a common sense approach will be utilized as we look at such a significant project. Water resources are a significant value to the region. I believe a common sense approach to such long-term improvements would be to expand the water capacity of Lake Perris. This could allow for less of a need for a future storage facility as well as providing more recreational amenities.



Lou Ochoa

McCanna Ranch Water Co.
Development Manager
5950 Priestly Dr
Carlsbad, Ca 92009

JUN 26 2007



LAKE PERRIS FAIRGROUNDS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

46TH DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
18700 LAKE PERRIS DRIVE • PERRIS, CALIFORNIA 92571
Telephone (951) 657-4221 • FAX (951) 657-5412
www.SoCalFair.com • info@SoCalFair.com

June 29, 2007

Perris Dam Remediation Project EIR
c/o Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

VIA FEDEX
VIA EMAIL: tbarnes@esassoc.com
VIA FACSIMILE: 213.599.4301

Reference: Perris Dam Remediation Project

Dear Mr. Barnes:

We are responding to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) *Perris Dam Remediation Project*.

The Lake Perris Fairgrounds (Fairgrounds)/Southern California Fair (Fair) is operated and managed by the 46th District Agricultural Association (DAA) with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Division of Fairs & Expositions (F&E) providing fiscal and policy oversight. The DAA is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor of the State of California and managed by a CEO. The DAA while a State agency is virtually self-supporting, receiving no general funding from the State of California. The physical property and location are among the most valuable assets of the DAA and were determining factors in our re-location to the site in 1987.

Our general understanding is that DWR is proposing to construct an emergency release channel paralleling the North edge of Ramona Expressway and extending North 150' to 200', the channel may be lined or un-lined and would flow to the Perris Valley Storm Drain.

The DAA is ***exceptionally concerned about impacts both known and unknown*** in connection with the development of the proposed project. The mere act of filing the NOP of the EIR has already resulted in tangible and intangible implications on our ongoing business. We certainly would insist that the EIR study include and address the following impacts prior to moving forward with any construction announcements or determinations as to the approval of the Perris Dam Remediation Project.

1. The Fairgrounds is approaching 1 million visitors each year.

2. The Ramona Expressway visibility of the Fairgrounds provides priceless value to the property.
3. The Fairgrounds provides unique agricultural, educational, economic, social, entertainment and recreational opportunities and when called upon acts as an emergency resource.
4. The DAA is dependent upon income generated from the annual Southern California Fair, an Off-Track Horse Racing facility, facility rentals, parking revenues, associated revenue streams and sponsorships, leases and rental income from renters for economic stability.
5. The DAA has long-term contracts with a number of individual renters that would certainly be adversely affected.
6. The DAA also contracts with other interim renters for the use of parking lots and facilities. This may include but not limited to; circus, tent sales, consumer shows, concerts, rodeos, RV rallies, receptions, parties and car shows.
7. Parking is located in controlled and specific areas for each event or activity, with many having restricted access depending on the event. Parking is charged for most public events.
8. Traffic ingress and egress is through designated gates; four gates on Lake Perris Drive and one controlled gate on Ramona Expressway.
9. Existing infrastructure located within 150' to 200' of the North edge of Ramona Expressway includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Water main and backflow
 - b. High voltage electrical
 - c. Sanitary sewer lines
 - d. Sanitary sewer lift station
 - e. Sanitary sewer pressurized lines
 - f. Irrigation systems
 - g. Landscape
 - h. Lighting
 - i. Electronic message center
 - j. Control fencing and gates
10. The DAA has no additional land available to develop.
11. Ongoing development of the property/programs and future ability to generate revenue will substantially be impacted.
12. The project may cumulatively and irreversibly affect the DAA's ability to sustain normal business operations.

13. The prospect of the project moving forward has already depreciated the value of our property and our ability to negotiate with current and future generation of renters. In addition our planned and un-planned investment in capital improvements/repairs to the property takes on an entirely new dimension of uncertainty.
14. There are certainly many other considerations that will require thorough identification.

The Project Background specifically identifies the recreational opportunities at Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) and has already disregarded in the preparation of NOP the agricultural, educational, economic, and social, entertainment and recreational opportunities the Fairgrounds offers. It is imperative that complete context and social analysis be applied to the EIR process to insure all areas are studied. The proposed NOP of EIR as presented merely mentions the Land Use issue of the fairgrounds and does even less to address Recreation while stating "recreational activities (at the LPSRA) would return to historic levels, or would even increase".

Questions regarding the proposed Emergency Outlet Release Channel follow;

1. The project will upgrade the State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure to meet current seismic standards and minimize the risks associated with seismic hazards; why is it necessary to construct the Emergency Release Channel now when the dam has been in continual operation since 1974?
2. There is a system of pipelines in place already; could these pipelines be used to perform a controlled drawdown of the lake? And what other systems are already in place? Can modifications be made to existing systems?
3. In the event of a catastrophic failure would an emergency drawdown through the proposed Emergency Outlet make a substantial difference to public safety?
4. What are the risks and consequences of not constructing the channel?
5. Project Description states "All three projects will be constructed without draining the lake in an effort to maintain the beneficial use of the State Recreation Area." What will be done to maintain the beneficial use of the Fairgrounds?
6. What are the construction specifics of the channel, i.e. design, alignment, timetables, security/safety, maintenance and what will be done to minimize impacts to the Fairgrounds?
7. Could the Emergency Release be through an underground pipe system?
8. Could a retention basin system be excavated outside the lake or in front of the Dam to provide greater ecological habitat?
9. Who will maintain the channel?
10. What security measures and features will be built into the project?

11. How will DWR address the short-term, long-term, adverse and permanent factors on the Fairgrounds business model both on a tangible and intangible basis?
12. Why do Project Objectives fail to mention mitigating impacts to the Fairgrounds while specifically identifying an objective to "Maximize the beneficial uses of the LPSRA by restoring the reservoir to its pre-drawdown water levels."?
13. How can the construction of the channel not have substantial detrimental effects to the Fairgrounds?
14. What resources are available to the DAA to mitigate the damage that has already been put in motion and may further occur?

DWR's plan to upgrade the dam by removing and replacing foundation material along a portion of the dam toe and adding a stability berm are obvious life safety issues and the DAA supports actions taken to protect, upgrade and restore the water delivery system.

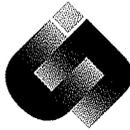
Given the information that we have; at this point, we view the release channel project as permanently detrimental to all activities and request Project Objectives require extensive examination to incorporate acceptable objectives that reach beyond those identified in the NOP.

Sincerely,



Vince Agnifili
Chief Executive Officer
46th District Agricultural Association
Southern California Fair

Cc:
Board of Directors
Lisa Drury, Division of Fairs & Expositions
Jess Cummings, California Construction Authority



CYBERNET
Consulting Inc.

SCADA SYSTEMS ♦ COMMUNICATIONS ♦ SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

June 27, 2007

Tom Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard Ste 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Tom,

CyberNet is pleased to submit our Statement of Qualifications in response to DWR's solicitation for input into the information to be studied related to the Perris Dam Remediation Project. We are an Engineering Services company in the water/wastewater industry specializing in all aspects of SCADA Systems, including instrumentation, Communications Networks (including radio systems), and Software Implementation (programming of PLCs and HMI). CyberNet has been recently selected by the Santa Clara Valley Water District to provide them with the design and software implementation of an automatic data acquisition system (ADAS) for their dam safety monitoring and compliance needs. The project includes four dams and will extend to six more dams in the future. CyberNet is teaming with Geomation, Inc. (Golden, CO), an acknowledged global leader in remote data acquisition and control, dedicated to the founding purpose of helping customers overcome the barriers inherent in taking physical measurements in harsh and remote environments. We would be happy to provide you with additional information at your request.

From our inception in 1993, CyberNet Consulting has been providing exceptional engineering and construction support services, primarily to City, County Utilities and Special Districts. With today's rapid technology obsolescence / advancement, coupled with physical and cyber security concerns, having direct access to industry experts is of paramount importance. CyberNet can offer your agency the following benefits:

- Increased access to a highly knowledgeable pool of experts in the fields of SCADA System Design, Information Technology, Radio Communications, Cyber Security, Software Engineering and Project Management.
- Solid, real-world experience in facility automation and upgrades for plant control, DCS / SCADA, information, and security systems. Most of our engineers have hands-on systems integration experience.
- Unbiased engineering solutions – we are not connected to any particular product or vendor and will specify the right equipment for your specific project.

Tom, we recognize the objectives for these projects include protecting, upgrading and restoring the SWP water delivery system. CyberNet is a well qualified firm and is committed to our clients and the quality of the service we provide. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss how we can contribute to your projects' success. Let us know how we can help.

Regards,
CyberNet Consulting, Inc.


Mary Ellen Krut, MBA

Corporate Office – San Diego
5927 Balfour Court, Ste. 208
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 603-1250

Northern California
1499 Bayshore Blvd., Ste 139
Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 888-5000

Tom Barnes
ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

July 1, 2007

Sent via email to: tbarnes@esassoc.com

Re: Perris Dam Remediation Project NOP

For over 20 years I have been a resident of Riverside County and a geologist at U.C. Riverside, concerned with geologic hazards in the Inland Empire. The following issues need to be addressed in the Perris Dam remediation Project EIR:

- 1) The quarry area (33°50'22"N, 117°10'05"W) used for construction of the dam in the early 1970s appears to have overly steep quarry walls that exceed more recent regulatory limits for mine and quarry slope stability as dictated by local, state and federal agencies (Riverside County Geologist; California State Mining and Geology Board; California Office of Mine Reclamation; U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975). Any proposal for renewed usage and expansion of this quarry must be reviewed by the appropriate agencies for adherence to the modern slope stability and reclamation regulations.
- 2) The Big Rock climbing area (33°50'17"N, 117°10'22.5"W) and related granitic rocks to the east (immediately adjacent to the quarry area) are not only popular with rock climbers but are also used as important historical geological features: they contain rare migmatite outcrops and the largest disaggregating xenolith outcrop in California (Morton and Miller, 2006). Numerous geology classes, including those at the University of California, Riverside, have visited this educational outcrop yearly since the 1960s. These outcrops thus have historical and cultural significance and must not be disturbed by the planned dam project.
- 3) The proposed location of the stability berm lies partly within current wetlands and other types of wildlife habitat. The impacts on, and mitigation of the loss of, such habitat must be fully addressed by the EIR. In addition, the effect of increased gravitational loading caused by this berm on the potential for more widely-manifested hydrologic changes, soil collapse and liquefaction also must be addressed. The potential for amplification/resonance in seismic shaking of the dam (during both vertical and lateral ground acceleration) and possible structural collapse, resulting from different proposed berm designs, must also be addressed.
- 4) The NOP states on p. 10 that "Seepage from Perris Lake has significantly raised the local groundwater table and improved groundwater quality downstream of Perris Dam". However, the NOP fails to note that by causing rises in the groundwater table such seepage has also significantly increased liquefaction potential in and around the Lake Perris area, particularly in areas where new housing developments are being proposed for the Perris, Lakeview and San Jacinto areas. The cumulative and related risk issues of dam seepage, rising groundwater tables, and dam breeches/flooding on increased

liquefaction potential in rapidly developing areas are thus of great public health and safety significance and must be addressed thoroughly in the project EIR.

Please keep me informed as to all scoping sessions, workshops, proceedings, meetings, hearings, staff reports, technical reports, public documents, DEIRs, EIRs and decisions in regard to this project.

Sincerely,

Michael A. McKibben, Ph.D.
23296 Sonnet Drive
Moreno Valley, CA 92557
(951) 924-8150
mamckibben@adelphia.net

Reference cited:

Morton, D.M., and Miller, F. K., 2006, Geologic map of the San Bernardino and Santa Ana 30' x 60' quadrangles, California; USGS Open File Report 1271, 2006,
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1217/>

Tom Barnes

From: Robert Whitaker [27trackt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2007 4:05 PM
To: Tom Barnes
Subject: NOP re Perris Dam Remediation Project

Mr. Barnes:

Please consider the impact this project would have if it were to interfere with the operation of the Perris Auto Speedway (PAS), which is located within the fairgrounds property and in close proximity to the dam remediation work. I am a race fan and regularly attend events at this venue. At any given event there might be many hundreds to thousands of fans in attendance. In addition to taking away this form of recreation from the fans, if remediation activities or the end result of them were to cause operations at the PAS to cease, there would be significant job losses, and also the loss of the economic benefits from travel, lodging, dining, and the like that the racing community brings to the Perris area.

Please recognize these significant impacts while you are designing and planning, and try to incorporate a plan that will leave the Perris Auto Speedway intact and able to continue operation.

Thank you, Bob Whitaker

5740 Greens Drive
Riverside, CA 92509
(951)681-4462

6/25/2007



Department of Toxic Substances Control



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

July 12, 2007

Ms. Jeanne Kuttel
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE PERRIS DAM REMEDIATION AT LAKE PERRIS DRIVE PROJECT (SCH. NO. 2007061004)

Dear Ms. Kuttel:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received your submitted Notice of Preparation of an EIR and Initial Study (IS) for the above-mentioned project. The following project description is stated in your document: "The Perris Dam Remediation Project includes three separate projects: (1) Perris Dam Remediation Project, (2) Outlet Tower Retrofit, and (3) Emergency Outlet Release Facility." DTSC provides comments as follows:

- 1) The EIR should identify the current or historic uses at the project site that may have resulted in a release of hazardous wastes/substances.
- 2) The EIR should identify the known or potentially contaminated sites within the proposed Project area. For all identified sites, the EIR should evaluate whether conditions at the site may pose a threat to human health or the environment. Following are the databases of some of the regulatory agencies:
 - National Priorities List (NPL): A list maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA).
 - Envirostor (formerly CalSites): A Database primarily used by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, accessible through DTSC's website (see below).

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS): A database of RCRA facilities that is maintained by U.S. EPA.
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): A database of CERCLA sites that is maintained by U.S.EPA.
 - Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): A database provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board which consists of both open as well as closed and inactive solid waste disposal facilities and transfer stations.
 - Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) / Spills, Leaks, Investigations and Cleanups (SLIC): A list that is maintained by Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
 - Local Counties and Cities maintain lists for hazardous substances cleanup sites and leaking underground storage tanks.
 - The United States Army Corps of Engineers, 911 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90017, (213) 452-3908, maintains a list of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
- 3) The EIR should identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation for any site that may be contaminated, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight. If necessary, DTSC would require an oversight agreement in order to review such documents. Please see comment No.17 below for more information.
 - 4) All environmental investigations, sampling and/or remediation for the site should be conducted under a Workplan approved and overseen by a regulatory agency that has jurisdiction to oversee hazardous substance cleanup. The findings of any investigations, including any Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessment Investigations should be summarized in the document. All sampling results in which hazardous substances were found should be clearly summarized in a table.
 - 5) Proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions overseen by the respective regulatory agencies, if necessary, should be conducted at the site prior to the new development or any construction. All closure, certification or remediation approval reports by these agencies should be included in the EIR.

- 6) If any property adjacent to the project site is contaminated with hazardous chemicals, and if the proposed project is within 2,000 feet from a contaminated site, then the proposed development may fall within the "Border Zone of a Contaminated Property." Appropriate precautions should be taken prior to construction if the proposed project is within a Border Zone Property.
- 7) Your document states: "The EIR will assess the potential for encountering such hazards at Perris Dam and will develop mitigation measures if necessary to ensure that any hazards encountered during construction would be handled in accordance with applicable regulations." If buildings or other structures, asphalt or concrete-paved surface areas are being planned to be demolished, an investigation should be conducted for the presence of other related hazardous chemicals, lead-based paints or products, mercury, and asbestos containing materials (ACMs). If other hazardous chemicals, lead-based paints or products, mercury or ACMs are identified, proper precautions should be taken during demolition activities. Additionally, the contaminants should be remediated in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies.
- 8) The project construction may require soil excavation or filling in certain areas. Sampling may be required. If soil is contaminated, it must be properly disposed and not simply placed in another location onsite. Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs) may be applicable to such soils. Also, if the project proposes to import soil to backfill the areas excavated, sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination.
- 9) Human health and the environment of sensitive receptors should be protected during the construction or demolition activities. If it is found necessary, a study of the site and a health risk assessment overseen and approved by the appropriate government agency and a qualified health risk assessor should be conducted to determine if there are, have been, or will be, any releases of hazardous materials that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.
- 10) If it is determined that hazardous wastes are, or will be, generated by the proposed operations, the wastes must be managed in accordance with the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5) and the Hazardous Waste Control Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5).

- 11) If it is determined that hazardous wastes are or will be generated and the wastes are (a) stored in tanks or containers for more than ninety days, (b) treated onsite, or (c) disposed of onsite, then a permit from DTSC may be required. If so, the facility should contact DTSC at (714) 484-5423 to initiate pre-application discussions and determine the permitting process applicable to the facility.
- 12) If it is determined that hazardous wastes will be generated, the facility should obtain a United States Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number by contacting (800) 618-6942.
- 13) Certain hazardous waste treatment processes may require authorization from the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). Information about the requirement for authorization can be obtained by contacting your local CUPA.
- 14) If the project plans include discharging wastewater to a storm drain, you may be required to obtain an NPDES permit from the overseeing Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
- 15) If during construction/demolition of the project, the soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected, construction/demolition in the area would cease and appropriate health and safety procedures should be implemented.
- 16) If the site was used for agricultural or related activities, onsite soils and groundwater might contain pesticides, agricultural chemical, organic waste or other related residue. Proper investigation, and remedial actions, if necessary, should be conducted under the oversight of and approved by a government agency at the site prior to construction of the project.
- 17) Envirostor (formerly CalSites) is a database primarily used by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and is accessible through DTSC's website. DTSC can provide guidance for cleanup oversight through an Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA) for government agencies, or a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) for private parties. For additional information on the EOA please see www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields, or contact Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC's Voluntary Cleanup Coordinator, at (714) 484-5489 for the VCA.

Ms. Jeanne Kuttel
July 12, 2007
Page 5

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Teresa Hom, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5477 or email at thom@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Greg Holmes
Unit Chief
Southern California Cleanup Operations Branch - Cypress Office

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

CEQA Tracking Center
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Environmental Planning and Analysis
1001 I Street, 22nd Floor, M.S. 22-2
Sacramento, California 95814

CEQA#1703

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

770 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUITE 100
GLENDALE, CA 91203-1068
(818) 500-1625
(818) 543-4685 FAX



August 1, 2007

Mr. Tom Barnes
ESA Associates
707 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Regarding: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Perris Dam Remediation Project, Riverside County, California

Mr. Barnes:

The Colorado River Board of California (CRB) has received a copy of Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed DWR Perris Dam Remediation Project, Riverside County, California. Perris Dam, which impounds Lake Perris, is located 15 miles south of the City of Riverside in Riverside County and approximately 65 miles east of Los Angeles.

At this juncture, the CRB has determined that it has no comments regarding the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (818) 500-1625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Zimmerman".

Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director

RECEIVED

AUG 02 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOC.
LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 8

PLANNING AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE (MS 722)

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
LOS ANGELES

September 27, 2007

C/O Tome Barnes, ESA
707 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Proposed Perris Dam Remediation - The project includes (1) Perris Dam Remediation Project, (2) Outlet Tower Retrofit, and (3) Emergency Outlet Release Facility.
08-SR215-PM near R030.933

Dear Mr. Barnes,

The California Department of Transportation (Department) received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the above noted proposal. Unfortunately, the notice did not include a State Clearinghouse number.

The project does not have adverse impacts to the State Highway System. However, please consider the following comments:

Construction and Traffic Handling Plan

- The Construction and Traffic Handling Plan should show how traffic along the Ramona Expressway, and the I-215 interchange/mainline would be affected and handled. There must be minimal interruption to traffic on I-215.

Cumulative impacts

- The cumulative impacts of other proposed developments in the area may have considerable impact on the regional transportation system. In cooperation with the County of Riverside, appropriate road improvements must be planned to mitigate increases in visitor traffic demand as a result of the proposed project deepening the eastern lakebed and enlarging the capacity for boating, water skiing and jet skiing. Land-use planning must include transportation planning in order to maintain the desired level of service and to promote economic vitality in the region.

Drainage

- Existing capacity of affected State drainage systems cannot be exceeded. Should 100-year project water run-off volume be determined to exceed the maximum capacity of the existing State drainage facilities, construction of on-site detention basins, new drainage systems or other impact mitigation would be required.

July 19, 2007

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The California Department of Transportation reserves the right to comment on any future revisions to this project. Should you have any concerns regarding the information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to coordinate with Victoria Green victoria.c.green@dot.ca.gov (909) 383.4032 or me at (909) 383.6040.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel H. Pickett

Office Chief

Regional Planning, Riverside IGR/CEQA Review

C: Manuel Jabson, Operations-Surveillance Region A

V. Green

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Williams [mailto:ctwilliams@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2007 9:59 PM

To: perrisdam@water.ca.gov

Cc: davegoodward@earthlink.net; drew-f@att.net

Subject: DWR Environmental Assessment and NOP for Perris Dam Project

DWR

The Project -

- best and most feasible repair options
- address the seismic concerns at Perris Dam.

- Finalized repair plan

- Upgrading dam by replacing the foundation material
- Reinforcing it with a stability berm placed on top of the improved foundation.

- Return to its previous maximum operating pool elevation after construction.

Repair plan include constructing a new outlet tower and emergency outlet release facility.

Construction is estimated to begin in the fall of 2008.

Dam completion is expected by fall 2010.

All projects concerning the Perris Dam are anticipated to be complete by fall 2012.

Lake Perris is located in northern Riverside County, and is the southernmost State Water Project Facility and the southern terminus of the East Branch of the California aqueduct.

The Lake Perris State Recreation Area is one of the state's most popular recreation destinations, with an average attendance of 1.1 million visitors.

We will convey our comments and questions soon for your considerations.

We would like to receive current updates regarding the Perris Dam remediation project.

Dr. Tom Williams
Conservation Committee
Los Angeles Audubon Society
and Others

Nicolle Ianelli Steiner

From: Kathleen Browne [KBROWNE@rctlma.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2007 1:02 PM
To: Tom Barnes
Subject: Notice of Preparation DWR Perris Dam Remediation Project EIR

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I apologize for the lateness of my response to the above notice. The County of Riverside Planning Department would like to receive a copy of the Draft environmental document once completed for review and comment. If you should have any questions, please contact me at 951-955-4949 or at my return email address.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Browne
Special Projects