

MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONFORMANCE STATEMENT For Lindo Lake Restoration Project

July 22, 2022

I. Introduction

The project is located at 12660 Lindo Lane in the unincorporated community of Lakeside, in the southwestern portion of San Diego County, approximately 1.5 miles east of Santee and 2.5 miles north of El Cajon.

Lindo Lake is divided into an east and west basin that are similarly sized and separated by an approximately 30-foot-wide causeway running north-south through the middle of the lake area. Water flow between the east and west basin is facilitated by a metal pipe and valve underneath the causeway. The lake was originally fed by the waters of Quail Canyon Creek; however, the creek has since been dammed up to create nearby Lake Jennings. Water supply to Lindo Lake is now limited to urban and surface runoff within the immediate vicinity of the lake, frequently leaving the shallower east basin of the lake in a dry state.

Over time, the basins fill with silt and sediment as they collect runoff from the surrounding drainage area. This raises the lakebed elevation, resulting in shallow water depth and seasonal drying of the east basin. The project would restore and enhance the lake basins by excavating accumulated sediment, and then grading and recontouring the lakebeds to deepen the basins and allow the basins to fill with a greater volume of water.

The project objectives are as follows:

1. Enhance public access to the lake and the amenities of the park
2. Restore and enhance the natural aquatic functions of the lake
3. Improve habitat for aquatic and avian species

Proposed improvements include dewatering, excavation, and grading of approximately 235,000 cubic yards of silt and sediment to re-contour the lakebed, deepen the east and west lake basins, and provide retention basins. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of the excavated lake material would be used to stabilize the banks of the lake basins, to create graded mounds surrounding the basins, and for landscaping and habitat creation. The balance of the material (approximately 225,000 cubic yards) would be exported off-site. The grading would be designed to create shallow areas in the east lake basin for nesting birds and fledgling young. The project would also install underwater features to provide shelter for fish. Following recontouring and deepening, both basins would be lined with bentonite clay up to one foot below the water level in the west basin and two feet below the water level in the east basin to improve the water-holding capacity and reduce the need for additional water inputs. A natural substrate would remain in the upper portions of each basin. The banks of the basins would be stabilized by the placement of a layer of cobble rock. The cobble would extend from the water line in the majority of the west basin and two feet below the water line in the east basin, down to a depth of approximately five feet.

Following construction, both basins would hold water to a depth of 10 feet, with the upper level of inundation occurring at an elevation of 394 feet above mean seal level.

The lake dewatering, accumulated sediment removal, and deepening would be conducted in two phases, with Phase 1 focused on the east basin, and Phase 2 focused on the west basin.

Phase 1 would include dewatering of the east basin by pumping any existing water to the west basin, the removal of accumulated sediment from the east basin; excavation and recontouring of the east basin, including creation of a sediment basin on the east side of the east basin; creation of mounds; off-site export of the remaining excavated material; drainage improvements; new wells; water aeration; water circulation; and landscape and irrigation improvements. Once construction within the east basin is complete, the basin will be inundated to an elevation of 394 feet above mean sea level.

Phase 2 would include dewatering of the west basin, which would allow for drying of the accumulated sediment in the west basin. After drying, the sediment would be removed from the west basin, used for contouring and creation of upland mounds, and the remainder would be exported off-site. A sediment basin would be created on the north side of the west basin. Some mature trees would need to be removed or relocated to allow for the grading of the basins. New plantings and irrigation would occur around both basins. Following Phase 2 construction, the west basin would be inundated to 394 feet above mean seal level.

Raw water from the Helix Water District pipeline would be used for the initial fill of the deepened lake. Post-construction water levels would be maintained by using groundwater from on-site wells.

Drainage Improvements:

Drainage improvements include extension of existing storm drainpipes; adding storm drain inlet and outlet protection or energy dissipaters; and creating sediment basins. Protection would be added to curb inlets along roads located within and adjacent to the park land to capture sediment and reduce flow rates and erosion. There is an existing shallow bottom box culvert underneath the causeway that allows water to flow between the basins during flood events only when the east basin is inundated. The project proposes to replace this shallow bottom box culvert with a new culvert at a lower elevation and add two additional 48-inch culverts through the causeway to enhance hydrology and water circulation between the two basins. This improved connectivity will also allow fish and other aquatic life to move more freely between the basins.

Sediment basins are also being added to reduce future sediment accumulation within the main lake basins. Ongoing maintenance of the lake basins would require annual monitoring of sediment levels and regular removal of sediment on an as-needed basis to maintain the proposed basin depths and water volumes. Each basin shall include markers to identify sediment depths. When accumulated sediment reaches a depth of 12 inches in any part of the lake bottom, it would be removed.

Park Landscaping Improvements:

Basin recontouring would produce excavated silt and sediment that would be used to create landscaped mounds surrounding the basins. In addition to these mounds, other park landscaping improvements include removal and replacement of an existing pedestrian bridge on the north side of the west basin; installation of two new floating fishing piers extending from the west and east sides of the causeway, two bird watching stations, decorative boulders, and Americans with Disability Act improvements. Picnic tables, benches, decorative boulders, fencing, and access gates near sediment basin areas will also be installed.

All areas disturbed by construction would also be revegetated. A total of 93 trees are proposed to be removed, including (11 non-native species and 82 native species, of which 6 would be reinstalled in place). The removed trees would be replaced by 2,695 new native riparian trees. Landscaping throughout the park would include native wetland, riparian, and upland plant species. Additionally, the park's irrigation system would be modified to provide for temporary irrigation of new plantings, seasonal and ongoing drought condition irrigation.

Access and Circulation Improvements:

Proposed Park access and circulation improvements include the following: removal and replacement of a prefabricated bridge on the north side of the west basin; a new pedestrian bridge from the Lakeside Community Center to the existing Historic Boat House; a simulated boardwalk to connect from behind the community center to the north parking lot; and construction of a stabilized decomposed granite path around the basins to improve Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access.

A Biological Resources Report for the Lindo Lake Restoration Project was prepared by RECON Environmental Inc. dated April 16, 2019. A total of 12 vegetation communities and land cover types occur within the park: freshwater marsh, cismontane alkali marsh, southern willow scrub, southern riparian woodland, open water, non-vegetated channel, saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) grassland, non-native grassland, non-native woodland, eucalyptus woodland, disturbed habitat, and urban/developed land. Eight of these vegetation communities are considered sensitive by the County: freshwater marsh, cismontane alkali marsh, southern willow scrub, southern riparian woodland, open water, non-vegetated channel, saltgrass grassland, and non-native grassland. Sixty-five plant and 42 animal species were detected during the biological investigations. No sensitive plant species were detected, but two sensitive wildlife species were detected: American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*). In addition, four other sensitive wildlife species have high potential to occur within the site: great blue heron (*Ardea Herodias*), western least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), and tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*).

All areas mapped as open water and non-vegetated channel within the project site are anticipated to be considered U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) nonwetland waters of the U.S, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake/Streambed, and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Waters of the State. Four vegetation

communities within the project site meet the criteria for wetlands (hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and hydrology): freshwater marsh, cismontane alkali marsh, southern willow scrub, and southern riparian woodland. These areas are expected to be concurrently identified as ACOE Wetland Waters of the U.S., CDFW Riparian, and RWQCB Wetlands. A total of 25.69 acres of jurisdictional areas were mapped on-site (7.33 acres likely considered ACOE wetland waters, RWQCB wetlands, and CDFW riparian habitat and 18.36 acres expected to be ACOE and RWQCB non-wetland waters and CDFW lake/streambed).

As a result of permitting direction received from ACOE, DPR a new Aquatic Resource Delineation Report for Lindo Lake Restoration Project was prepared by ICF dated November 2019. Also, an Aquatic Resource Impacts Analysis for Lindo Lake Restoration Project was prepared by ICF dated January 2020. The revised Aquatic Resource Delineation Report resulted in modifications to the types and amount of habitat within Lindo Lake, which resulted in changes to the amount of permanent and temporary impacts that would occur to each type of habitat. Updated baseline, impact, and post-construction acreages resulting from the revised Aquatic Resource Delineation Report are shown in Table 3.

The project has potential to cause significant direct impacts to Cooper's hawk, tricolored blackbird, great blue heron, western least bittern, and other CFGC-protected species if vegetation clearing occurs during these species' respective breeding seasons. The project would cause direct impacts to 25.41 acres of sensitive vegetation communities (Tiers I, III, and unvegetated aquatic habitats). The project would cause direct impacts to wetlands (6.05 acres) and non-wetland waters/lake/streambeds (18.35 acres) as defined by ACOE, CDFW, and RWQCB. The project would conflict with the provisions of CFGC 3503 and 3503.3, as project has potential to cause significant direct impacts to Cooper's hawk, tricolored blackbird, great blue heron, western least bittern, and other CFGC-protected species if vegetation clearing occurs during these species' respective breeding seasons.

Mitigation Measures

In order to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level, the County of San Diego proposes the following Mitigation Measures as part of the Project:

M-BI-1a Removal of habitat and vegetation that may support active nests shall occur outside of the breeding season for all potentially impacted species (February 1 to July 15 for Cooper's hawk; January 15 to August 31 for all other species).

M-BI-1b If vegetation clearing must begin during the breeding season, the following measures must be implemented:

Before Construction:

- A qualified biologist shall attend the pre-construction meeting to discuss biological resource issues of the project and identify measures to avoid impacts to sensitive species during construction.

- A qualified biologist shall conduct surveys to determine if active nests are present in the impact area or within 300 feet (or within 500 feet for Cooper's hawk and other raptors). If active nests are found, a no-activity buffer zone shall be established at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with the County, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. If no nests are found, no mitigation will be needed.

During Construction:

- On the first day of construction, the qualified biologist shall attend the tailgate meeting and conduct training for contractors and construction personnel, including explaining the purpose for protecting biological resources and any avoidance measures that should be implemented during project construction.
- The qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities full time during vegetation clearing and grubbing, and weekly thereafter to direct crews on avoidance measures. The biological monitor shall verify the following:
 - o Any installed construction fencing or silt fencing shall remain intact, and movement of construction personnel, vehicles, and equipment shall be confined to existing roads and areas within the defined project footprint.
 - o Equipment maintenance, staging, and fuel dispensing areas shall be situated such that runoff from these areas remains outside of the lake basins or any other areas of sensitive habitat.
 - o All trash (including, but not limited to, food scraps, wrappers, and beverage containers) shall be removed from work sites or completely secured in a wildlife-proof container at the end of each workday.
 - o Pets of project personnel shall not be allowed in the work area.

After construction:

The biological monitor shall provide a letter to the County describing monitoring activities and any biological issues identified.

M-BI-2a Impacts to non-wetland habitat, including permanent impacts to 0.10 acres and temporary impacts to 20.25 acres of open water and non-wetland habitat will be mitigated through on-site revegetation at an estimated greater than 1:1 ratio resulting in a total of 21.76 acres of non-wetland habitat and open water.

M-BI-2b Permanent impacts to 0.12 acres and temporary impacts to 0.04 acres of wetland and riparian habitat will be mitigated through on-site revegetation at an estimated greater than 1:1 ratio resulting in a total of 4.59 acres of wetland and riparian revegetation.

M-BI-2c The previous SEIR found that permanent impacts to 0.08 acre of native grassland (saltgrass grassland) would be mitigated through off-site revegetation at a 2:1 ratio. This equates to a mitigation total of 0.16 acre of native grassland in compliance with the County's Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). Subsequent analysis (in the Aquatic Resource Impacts Analysis for Lindo Lake Restoration Project) detailed implementation of the project valuable habitat and same tier (Tier I) habitat mitigation can occur on-site.

Therefore, the Tier I mitigation will occur with on-site mitigation of 0.16 acres of wetland habitat (Tier I) satisfying full mitigation of the native grasslands.

M-BI-2d The previous SEIR found that permanent impacts to 0.99 acre of non-native grassland would be mitigated through off-site revegetation at a 1:1 ratio. This equates to a mitigation total of 0.99 acre of non-native grassland in compliance with the County's BMO. Subsequent analysis (in the Aquatic Resource Impacts Analysis for Lindo Lake Restoration Project) detailed implementation of the project valuable habitat Tier I can occur on-site. Therefore, on-site up-tier (Tier III to Tier I) mitigation will occur with mitigation of 0.99 acres of wetland habitat (Tier I) satisfying full mitigation of the non-native grasslands.

M-BI-3 The project would result in permanent impacts to 0.12 acres of wetland, 0.01 acres of non-wetland, and 0.09 acres of open water; temporary impacts to 0.04-acre wetland and 20.25 acres open water; and conversion impacts to 0.04-acre wetland, 0.03-acre non-wetland, and 2.08 acres open water considered waters of the U.S. subject to regulation by the ACOE and RWQCB. Additionally, the project would result in permanent impact to 0.10 acre of lake/streambed, 0.25 acres of vegetated lake, 0.29 acre of riparian; temporary impacts to 19.33 acres of lake/streambed, 1.55 acres of vegetated lake, and 0.07 acre of riparian; and conversion impacts to 2.36 acres of lake/streambed, 0.40 acre of vegetated lake, and 0.04 acre of riparian considered CDFW jurisdictional aquatic resources. Impacts to wetlands and waters as defined by ACOE, CDFW, and RWQCB would be offset by the proposed inundation and revegetation of the lake basins, as shown in the project planting plan.

Table 1. Impacts to Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Types

Habitat Type	Acreage						
	Project Site	Avoided /Impact-Neutral	Impacts			Revegetated	Post-Construction
			Temporary	Permanent	Total		
Unvegetated Aquatic Habitats							
Unvegetated Aquatic Habitats							
Open Water	18.29	-	17.20	1.09	18.29	20.17	20.17
Non-vegetated channel	0.07	0.01	-	0.06	0.06	-	0.01
Open Water/Channel Subtotal	18.36	0.01	17.20	1.15	18.35	20.17	20.18
Tier I Communities							
Wetland and Riparian Habitat							
Freshwater marsh	0.82	0.45	0.08	0.29	0.37	0.46	0.91
Cismontane alkali marsh	5.19	0.66	1.80	2.73	4.53	2.85	3.51
Southern willow scrub	0.02	0.02	-	-	-	0.10	0.12
Southern riparian woodland	1.67	1.30	-	0.37	0.37	2.74	4.04
Wetland and Riparian Subtotal	7.70	2.43	1.88	3.39	5.27	6.15	8.58
Native Grassland							
Saltgrass grassland	0.10	0.02	-	0.08	0.08	-	0.02
Native Grassland Subtotal	0.10	0.02	-	0.08	0.08	-	0.02
Tier III Communities							
Non-native Grassland							
Non-native grassland	1.13	0.14	-	0.99	0.99	-	0.14
Non-native Grassland Subtotal	1.13	0.14	-	0.99	0.99	-	0.14
Tier IV Communities or No Tier							
Disturbed or Developed Areas							
Non-native woodland	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	0.40
Eucalyptus woodland	0.35	0.35	-	-	-	-	0.35
Disturbed habitat	15.12	0.71	11.13**	3.28	14.41	0.84	1.55
Ornamental landscaping	-	-	-	-	-	10.47	10.47**
Urban/developed land	14.30	14.20	-	0.10	0.10	1.60	15.80
Disturbed or Developed Subtotal	30.17	15.66	11.13	3.38	14.51	12.91	28.57
Total	57.46	18.26*	30.21	8.99	39.20	39.23	57.46*

*Sums differ due to rounding.

**Most of the disturbed habitat areas will be planted as part of the project and maintained with other park features, so under post-project conditions, they are considered ornamental landscaping. Both communities are considered disturbed or developed areas, so the impact is shown as temporary.

Table 2. Impacts to Jurisdictional Wetland and Waters

Jurisdictional Areas	Acreage					
	Project Site	Impacts			Post-Construction	Net Change
		Temp.	Perm.	Total		
ACOE Jurisdictional Areas						
Wetland Waters of the U.S.	7.33	1.95	3.30	5.25	8.23	+0.90
Non-wetland Waters of the U.S.	18.36	17.20	1.15	18.35	20.18	+1.82
ACOE Total Jurisdiction (404)*	25.69	19.15	4.56	23.71	28.41	+2.72
CDFW Jurisdictional Areas*						
Riparian Habitat**	7.33	1.95	3.30	5.25	8.57	+1.24
Lake/Streambed	18.36	17.20	1.15	18.35	20.18	+1.82
CDFW Total Jurisdiction (1602)*	25.69	19.15	4.56	23.71	28.75	+3.06
RWQCB Jurisdictional Areas*						
State Wetlands	7.33	1.95	3.30	5.25	8.57	+1.24
Lake/Streambed	18.36	17.20	1.15	18.35	20.18	+1.82
RWQCB Total Jurisdiction (401)*	25.69	19.15	4.56	23.71	28.75	+3.06

* Area of existing CDFW/RWQCB jurisdiction includes all ACOE jurisdictional waters.

** Includes area of riparian canopy following construction that will extend beyond the limit of ACOE/RWQCB jurisdiction.

Table 3. Revised Lindo Lake Aquatic Resource Impacts

Jurisdictional Areas	Acreage ¹					
	Baseline/Project	Permanent Impacts	Temporary Impacts	Conversion Impacts ²	Post-Construction	Net Change
USACE/RWQCB						
Wetland	0.71	0.12	0.04	0.04	4.59	3.88
Non-Wetland	0.09	0.01	-	0.03	0.07	(0.02)
Open Water	23.26	0.09	20.25	2.08	21.69	(1.57)
Total	24.06	0.22	20.30	2.15	26.36	2.3
CDFW						
Lake/Streambed	22.03	0.10	19.33	2.36	20.14	(1.89)
Vegetated Lake	3.76	0.25	1.55	0.40	6.72	2.96
Riparian	0.83	0.29	0.07	0.04	1.25	0.42
Total	26.62	0.64	20.95	2.80	28.11	1.49

¹May not add due to rounding.

²Conversion from a different aquatic resource type to said aquatic resource type (e.g., open water to wetland or vegetated lake to unvegetated lake).

Table 4. Impacts to Habitat and Required Mitigation

Habitat Type	MSCP Tier	Existing On-site (ac.)	Proposed Impacts (ac.)	Mitigation Ratio	Required Mitigation (On-site)
Native Grassland (saltgrass grassland)	I	0.10	0.08	2:1	0.16
Non-native grassland	III	1.13	0.99	1:1	0.99
Total		1.23	1.07	--	1.15

The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services. Upon project completion the project site would support 26.36 acres of waters of the U.S., including 4.59 acres of wetlands as well as 28.11 acres of CDFW jurisdictional aquatic resources. This represents a net increase of 2.3 acres of waters of the U.S. as well as 1.49 acres of CDFW aquatic resources as compared to baseline (i.e., pre-project) conditions. The primary increase in ACOE/RWQCB aquatic resource type is associated with wetland waters of the U.S., which are afforded special protections under the Clean Water Act. Likewise, the increase in CDFW jurisdictional resources can be attributed to an increase in vegetated lake resources. Furthermore, the project would increase overall water capacity from the current 9.9 million gallons to the post-construction capacity of 48.3 million gallons. These increases in wetland and non-wetland waters are expected to improve aquatic and wetland functions and services within the park.

To comply with the state and federal regulations for impacts to Waters of the U.S./State, the following agency permits may be required.

- CWA Section 401 and 404 permits issued by the California RWQCB and the ACOE for all project-related disturbances of Waters of the U.S. and/or associated wetlands would be required for this project.
- A Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement issued by the CDFW for all project related disturbances of the lake/streambed would be required for this project.

The findings contained within this document are based on County records, staff field site visits, the Biological Resources Report for the Lindo Lake Restoration Project prepared by RECON Environmental Inc. dated April 16, 2019, an Aquatic Resource Delineation Report for Lindo Lake Restoration Project prepared by ICF dated November 2019, and an Aquatic Resource Impacts Analysis for Lindo Lake Restoration Project prepared by ICF dated January 2020. The information contained within these Findings is correct to the best of staff's knowledge at the time the findings were completed. Any subsequent environmental review completed due to changes in the project or changes in circumstance shall need to have new findings completed based on the environmental conditions at that time.

The project has been found to conform to the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan, the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO) and the Implementation Agreement between the County of San Diego, the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Third Party Beneficiary Status and the

associated take authorization for incidental impacts to sensitive species (pursuant to the County's Section 10 Permit under the Endangered Species Act) shall be conveyed only after the project has been approved by the County, these MSCP Findings are adopted by the hearing body and all MSCP-related conditions placed on the project have been satisfied.

II. Biological Resource Core Area Determination

The impact area and the mitigation site shall be evaluated to determine if either or both sites qualify as a Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA) pursuant to the BMO, Section 86.506(a)(1).

A. Report the factual determination as to whether the proposed Impact Area qualifies as a BRCA. The Impact Area shall refer only to that area within which project-related disturbance is proposed, including any on and/or off-site impacts.

The project site is located within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment of the MSCP County of San Diego Subarea Plan. Most of the project site is within a Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA) because it was mapped as a Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA) on the wildlife agencies' preapproved mitigation map (Attachment F of Document No. 0769999 on file with the Clerk of the Board).

B. Report the factual determination as to whether the Mitigation Site qualifies as a BRCA.

Most of the project site is within a BRCA. The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services. Also, the mitigation for impacts to saltgrass grassland and non-native grassland will occur on-site.

III. Biological Mitigation Ordinance Findings

The project is exempt from the BMO (Section 86.503(a)(8)), which states:

A public facility or public project, determined to be essential by the County, including but not limited to a County Park or County recreational facility, provided that the County decision making body considering an application for such a project makes the following findings:

a. The facility or project is consistent with the County General Plan, the MSCP Plan and Subarea Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors;

The project is consistent with the Conservation and Open Space Elements of the County General Plan because the Lindo Lake Park facility would create opportunities for a broad range of recreational experiences to serve user interest, would reflect community character and identity, incorporate local natural and

cultural landscapes and features, and consider the surrounding land uses and urban form and cultural and historic resources, and would promote the health and well-being of County residents while meeting the needs of a diverse and growing population.

The project is consistent with the MSCP plan and Subarea Plan because it will have no adverse effects on sensitive species. The project will impact 0.08 acre of saltgrass grassland and 0.99 acre of non-native grassland. Mitigation will occur through on-site enhancement and improvements to 1.15 acres of wetland habitat. Otherwise, the project has been designed to be self-mitigating.

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

The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services.

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

Implementation of the project would result in permanent, temporary, and conversion impacts to aquatic resources, the primary purpose of the project is to improve the overall condition of the existing aquatic resources onsite by removing accumulated sediments, increasing inundation, and improving water quality. The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services.

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

The project does not propose to encroach into steep slopes, as none exists within the project footprint or Study Area for the project.

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

The project does not propose to impact mature riparian woodland, as none exists within the project footprint or Study Area for the project.

- f. All Critical Populations of Sensitive Plant Species Within the MSCP Subarea, (Attachment C); Rare, Narrow Endemic Animal Species Within the MSCP Subarea, (Attachment D); Narrow, Endemic Plant Species Within the MSCP Subarea, (Attachment E); and San Diego County Sensitive Plant Species, as defined herein will be avoided as required by, and consistent with, the terms of the Subarea Plan.**

No special status plant species occur on the project site; therefore, none would be impacted.

Implementation of the project would not result in impacts to narrow endemic animal or plant species within the MSCP Subarea.

No San Diego County sensitive plant species occur on the project site; therefore, none would be impacted.

IV. Subarea Plan Findings

Conformance with the objectives of the County Subarea Plan is demonstrated by the following findings:

1. The project will not conflict with the no-net-loss-of-wetlands standard in satisfying State and Federal wetland goals and policies.

Implementation of the project would result in permanent, temporary, and conversion impacts to aquatic resources, the primary purpose of the project is to improve the overall condition of the existing aquatic resources onsite by removing accumulated sediments, increasing inundation, and improving water quality. The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services.

2. The project includes measures to maximize the habitat structural diversity of conserved habitat areas including conservation of unique habitats and habitat features.

The project site does not support unique habitats or habitat features. Restoration of the lake basins and implementation of the project planting plan would result in an improvement of the overall habitat value of the park. The loss of 0.08 acre of saltgrass grassland and 0.99 acre of non-native grassland will be mitigated on-site through enhancement and improvements to 1.15 acres of wetland habitat.

3. The project provides for conservation of spatially representative examples of extensive patches of Coastal sage scrub and other habitat types that were ranked as having high and very high biological values by the MSCP habitat evaluation model.

The project site does not include extensive patches of Coastal sage scrub. The southeastern portion of the east basin of Lindo Lake, open water and adjacent habitat, is shown as having high biological values by the MSCP habitat evaluation model. The project will be increasing aquatic resource functions within Lindo Lake by restoring both the east and west basins to a perennial lake and enhancing aquatic resource functions of the lake and adjacent wetlands.

4. The project provides for the creation of significant blocks of habitat to reduce edge effects and maximize the ratio of surface area to the perimeter of conserved habitats.

The project will increase aquatic resource functions within Lindo Lake, enhancing aquatic resource functions of the lake and adjacent wetlands, and improving habitat for aquatic and avian species within an active park. Also, the project site is surrounded by residential development. Therefore, the project will not increase edge effects associated with existing or future conserved habitats.

5. The project provides for the development of the least sensitive habitat areas.

The project purpose is to increase aquatic resource functions within Lindo Lake by restoring both the east and west basins to a perennial lake, enhancing aquatic resource functions of the lake and adjacent wetlands, and improving habitat for aquatic and avian species.

6. The project provides for the conservation of key regional populations of covered species, and representations of sensitive habitats and their geographic sub-associations in biologically functioning units.

The project site does not contain threatened, endangered, or narrow endemic species. The overall project purpose is to increase aquatic resource functions within Lindo Lake by restoring both the east and west basins to a perennial lake, enhancing aquatic resource functions of the lake and adjacent wetlands, and improving habitat for aquatic and avian species.

7. Conserves large interconnecting blocks of habitat that contribute to the preservation of wide-ranging species such as Mule deer, Golden eagle, and predators as appropriate. Special emphasis will be placed on conserving adequate foraging habitat near Golden eagle nest sites.

The project site is surrounded by development in all directions and, therefore, does not have a connection to larger, undisturbed areas. The project site does not support any wildlife movement corridors or habitat linkages. Also, the project site does not support foraging habitat for golden eagles. Therefore, no significant impact would occur.

8. All projects within the San Diego County Subarea Plan shall conserve identified critical populations and narrow endemics to the levels specified in the Subarea Plan. These levels are generally no impact to the critical populations and no more than 20 percent loss of narrow endemics and specified rare and endangered plants.

There were no threatened, endangered, narrow endemic species detected on the project site. Therefore, the project will not impact critical populations of specified rare and endangered plants or narrow endemic species.

9. No project shall be approved which will jeopardize the possible or probable assembly of a preserve system within the Subarea Plan.

The project purpose is to increase aquatic resource functions within Lindo Lake by restoring both the east and west basins to a perennial lake, enhancing aquatic resource functions of the lake and adjacent wetlands, improving recreational amenities associated with the lake, and improving habitat for aquatic and avian species. The project is in Lindo Lake County Park and the lake is considered part of the MSCP preserve. Therefore, the project will not jeopardize the possible or probable assembly of a preserve system with the Subarea Plan.

10. All projects that propose to count on-site preservation toward their mitigation responsibility must include provisions to reduce edge effects.

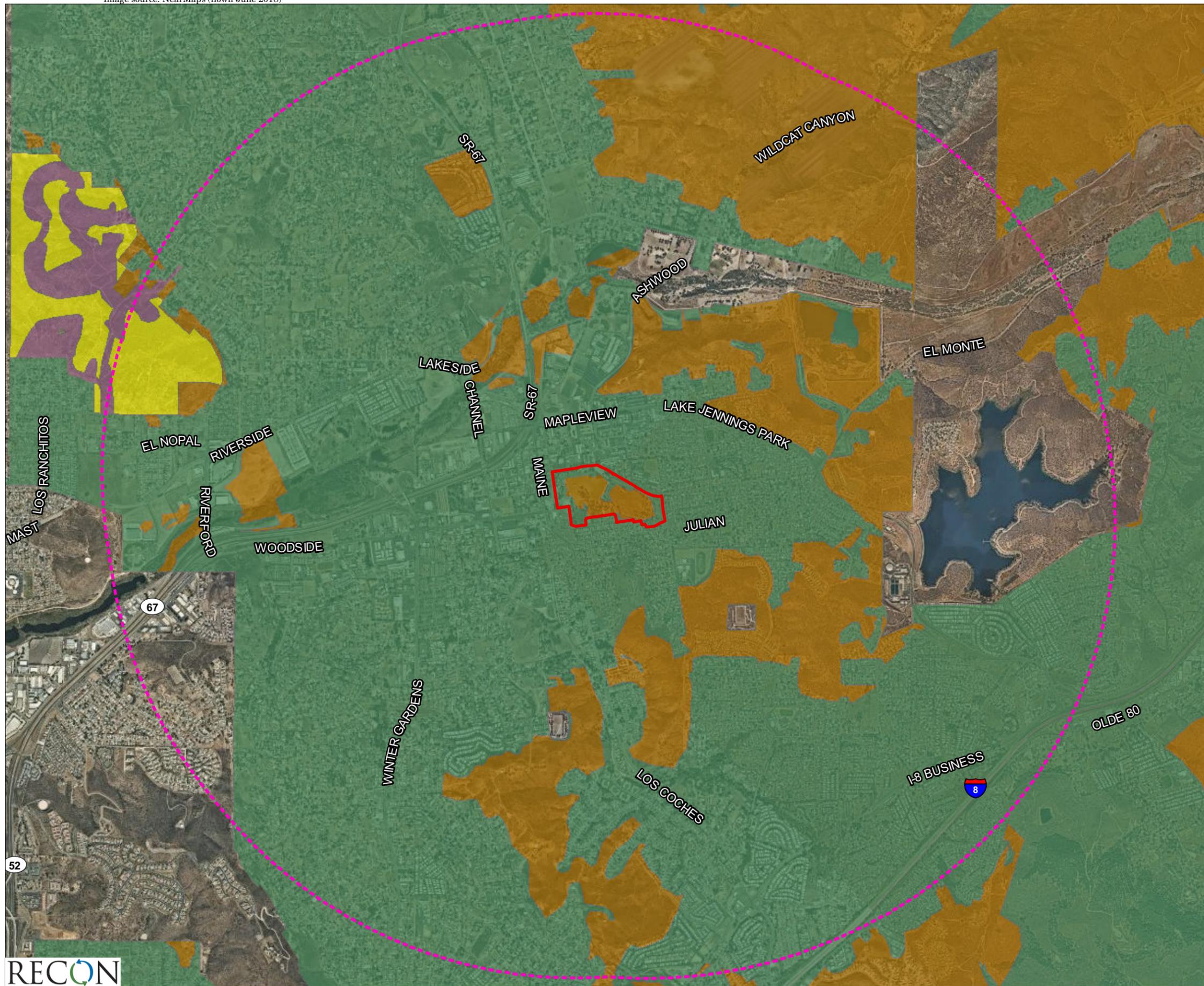
The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services. The lake basins and adjacent habitat will be maintained in perpetuity by the County because they are part of the Lindo Lake County Park in its entirety.

11. Every effort has been made to avoid impacts to BRCAs, to sensitive resources, and to specific sensitive species as defined in the BMO.

The project site is located within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment of the MSCP County of San Diego Subarea Plan and most of the project site is within a Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA). There were no threatened, endangered, narrow endemic species detected on the project site. The project has been designed to be self-mitigating as it would result in a net increase in aquatic resource acreage as well as lake functions and services. Therefore, every effort has been made to avoid impacts BRCAs, to sensitive resources, and to specific sensitive species as defined in the BMO.

Jennifer Price, Department of Parks and Recreation

July 22, 2022



-  Project Boundary
-  2-mile Buffer
- MSCP County of San Diego Subarea Plan**
-  Hardline Preserve
-  Pre-Approved Mitigation Area
-  Take Authorized Area
-  Unincorporated Land in Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment



FIGURE 5
Project Site in Relation to
MSCP Preserve Areas