CALENDAR ITEM  
C06  

DREDGING LEASE  

APPLICANT:  
County of Santa Barbara, Flood Control District  
123 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101  

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:  
Sovereign lands in Goleta Slough, near the town of Goleta, Santa Barbara County.  

AUTHORIZED USE:  
The periodic breaching of the sandbar located at the mouth of Goleta Slough and dredging a maximum of 25,000 cubic yards of material per year during the lease term.  

LEASE TERM:  
Five years, beginning December 1, 2000.  

CONSIDERATION:  
No royalty will be charged as the project will result in a public benefit. $0.25 per cubic yard will be charged for any material used for private benefit or commercial sale purposes.  

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:  
1. Applicant has the right to use the lands adjoining the lease premises.  
2. The County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District (County) has routinely maintained the creeks that flow into Goleta Slough for the past 25 years. In the past five years, this has included hydraulic dredging of the sedimentation basins in Atascadero, San Pedro and San Jose creeks. Dredged sediments have been discharged into the surf zone east of the mouth of Goleta Slough. An alternative discharge location at the west end of Goleta Beach County Park is
being added to the project. The proposed project also includes the periodic breaching of the sandbar at the mouth of Goleta Slough.

3. The California State Lands Commission (CSDL) previously approved the County's dredging project in Goleta Slough. That dredging lease expired April 5, 1999, and the County has submitted an application to replace the expired dredging lease.

4. An EIR and supplemental EIR were prepared and certified for this project by Santa Barbara County Flood Control District. The California State Lands Commission staff has reviewed the document and Mitigation Monitoring Program adopted by the lead agency.

5. The County's personnel will monitor the dredging project to assure that all of the mitigation measures identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Program are complied with.

6. Findings made in conformance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15091 and 15096) are contained in Exhibit C, attached hereto.

7. A Statement of Overriding Considerations made in conformance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15093) is contained in Exhibit C, attached hereto.

8. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:
United States Army Corps of Engineers
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Coastal Commission
County of Santa Barbara.

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EXHIBITS:
A. Location Map  
B. Site Map  
C. CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations  
D. Mitigation Monitoring Program

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:  
April 30, 2001

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:  
FIND THAT AN EIR AND SUPPLEMENTAL EIR WERE PREPARED AND CERTIFIED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

ADOPT THE FINDINGS MADE IN CONFORMANCE WITH TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTIONS 15091 AND 15096 (h), AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT C, ATTACHED HERETO.

ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS MADE IN CONFORMANCE WITH TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 15093, AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT C, ATTACHED HERETO.

ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM, AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT D,(attached hereto.

SIGNIFICANT LANDS INVENTORY FINDING:  
FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370, ET SEQ.

AUTHORIZATION:  
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CALANDAR ITEM NO. C06 (CONT'D)

AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A DREDGING LEASE TO THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2000, FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, FOR THE PERIODIC BREACHING OF THE MOUTH OF GOLETA SLOUGH AND DREDGING A MAXIMUM OF 25,000 CUBIC YARDS OF MATERIAL PER YEAR DURING THE LEASE TERM ON THE LANDS SHOWN ON EXHIBIT B ATTACHED AND BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF; SUCH PERMITTED ACTIVITY IS CONTINGENT UPON APPLICANT'S COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PERMITS, RECOMMENDATIONS, OR LIMITATIONS ISSUED BY FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; NO ROYALTY WILL BE CHARGED AS THE PROJECT WILL RESULT IN A PUBLIC BENEFIT. $0.25 PER CUBIC YARD WILL BE CHARGED FOR ANY MATERIAL USED FOR PRIVATE BENEFIT OR COMMERCIAL SALE PURPOSES.
LEGEND
- Basin
- Staging Area
- Spills Disposal Area

Sampling Locations
Discharge Locations

LEGEND
- Basin
- Staging Area
- Spills Disposal Area

Sampling Locations
Discharge Locations

GOLETA
San Joaquin
Channel

LEASE PREMISES

Figure 1
LOCATION OF KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS
TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Karl Trelberg, Engineering Environmental Planner, Ext. 3443

SUBJECT: Goleta Slough Dredging Project, Second and Third Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

A. Certify the Supplement (SEIR) to the Environmental Impact Report (93-EIR-4) prepared for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and

B. Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Supplement to 93-EIR-4 as well as information presented during the public hearing and adopt the CEQA Findings included in Attachment 1.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2, A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In 1994, the Board approved and certified the Environmental Impact Report for the Goleta Slough Dredging Project (93-EIR-4). A Supplement (SEIR) to the Environmental Impact Report (93-EIR-4) has been prepared for the project. Under Section 15216 of the CEQA Guidelines, a supplement to a previously certified EIR must be prepared if substantial changes have occurred "with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken" due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. The District determined that a Supplement to the EIR for the project is required because two new environmental issues have arisen since implementation of the project and a minor modification to the project description is proposed. The SEIR addresses potential impacts to the endangered southern steelhead and effects of the project on water quality. In addition, the SEIR includes the option of moving the dredge discharge to the west end of the Goleta Beach Park to provide beach nourishment. This addition will allow the County more options to beach erosion.
which prompted emergency protection measures last winter by the Parks Department. A discussion of impacts to recreation and aesthetics are discussed in the SEIR as they relate to moving the discharge.

The project consists of removing sediment that has been deposited from Atascadero, San Jose, San Pedro, Camerons, and Tecolotito Creeks within the Goleta Slough. Sediment will be removed with a hydraulic dredge and/or a crane rigged with a dragline. The SEIR considers dragline desilting for the creeks if the sediment is not suitable for surf zone disposal. Hydraulic dredging on Atascadero, San Jose, and San Pedro Creeks is proposed if the sediment is suitable for surf zone disposal. As your Board is aware, the surf zone disposal option aids in achieving beach nourishment which is desired by your Board and BEACON.

Prior to your Board approving the project, Goleta Slough was undergoing sedimentation and thus the loss of salt marsh habitat. In addition, the loss of capacity in the Slough threatened adjacent and upstream urban areas including residential and commercial development. The Santa Barbara Airport is also deeply impacted by the condition of the creeks in the Slough.

Staff will work closely with Parks Department to maximize the nourishment of Goleta Beach for protection of the park facilities. Historically, excavated material from Tecolotito and Camerons Creeks has been removed by private contractors. Staff has committed to make this material available to Parks first, if suitable for beach nourishment or deposition in the surf zone.

The SEIR was circulated for public review for 45 days. The District received two comment letters. Comments generally were concerned with the need for the project, emergency maintenance, beach nourishment, and impacts on steelhead. Responses to those comments are included in the SEIR. As a result of those comments, modifications were made to the SEIR to address the concerns of the commentors.

The District has applied for permit renewals from the Corps of Engineers, Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, California Department of Fish & Game, City of Santa Barbara and the Planning & Development Department. The Regional Water Quality Control Board Permit is still valid. In addition, the District consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service for steelhead for this project. The District is currently negotiating with the EPA for permission to discharge sediments at Goleta Beach. The District expects to conduct maintenance in October pending approval from the regulatory agencies listed above.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Dredging the slough this year is estimated to cost $350,000. This project is budgeted this FY in Dept: 054, Acct: 7701, Fund: 2610, Program: 3002.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts with this action.
Goleta Slough Dredging Project, Second Supervisory District
Date: 09/12/00
Page: 3

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to the Flood Control office, attn: Karl Treiberg.
TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

STAFF CONTACT: Larry Fausett, Ph.D., Operations and Maintenance Manager, ext. 3459

SUBJECT: HEARING FOR CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF A PROGRAM EIR FOR FLOOD CONTROL ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE GOLETA SLOUGH

RECOMMENDATIONS:

C.A. Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors:

A. Certify the Final Program EIR, 93-EIR-4, for Routine Maintenance Activities in the Goleta Slough has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

B. Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final Program EIR, 93-EIR-4, as well as information presented during the public hearing prior to the approval of the project, and adopt the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations included as attachment 1.

C. Adopt the approved preferred project description and mitigation measures, with their corresponding monitoring requirements, as the monitoring program for this project.

D. Approve the project identified as the preferred alternative in the Final Program EIR, 93-EIR-4.

E. Direct the District to apply for State and Federal permits to the extent required by law.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION:

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (District) has routinely maintained the creeks that flow through the Goleta Slough for over 20 years. Historical maintenance activities have involved the removal of sediment from such creeks or from silt basins within the creeks as well as opening the mouth of the slough. Due to many factors there is a constant supply of sediment that is deposited in each of the five creeks that feed the slough, and without the removal of the sediment the slough would eventually fill in.
eliminating the marsh. Additionally, failure to remove sediments can cause significant inundation upon runoff events to large areas adjacent to the slough including commercial areas, airport and residences. The District is proposing as the preferred alternative the removal of sediment from specific sections of the creek by hydraulic dredging or dragline dredging and opening the mouth of the slough by dozer and/or excavator. Removal of sediment in this manner not only increases channel conveyance but also benefits the environment by increasing the tidal prism and confining maintenance impacts to small areas.

Several alternatives were considered for this project. Those alternatives included; traditional (dragline desilting) maintenance for all the creeks, deposition of dredge spoils on the beach, discharge pipelines on the ground, reduced basin size, increased basin size, no project, and the preferred project.

Preferred Alternative:
Historically the District has dredged Atascadero, San Jose, San Pedro, Carneros, and Tecolotito Creeks using a crane rigged as a dragline. However, there are significant environmental impacts associated with dragline desilting, therefore a less environmentally harmful maintenance technique is being proposed.

Hydraulic Dredging:
A floating hydraulic dredge would be launched in the slough by a crane or down a ramp. The dredge would be used to desilt the tidally influenced portions of Atascadero, San Jose, and San Pedro Creek. In-stream sediment basins will be excavated for each of the creeks. Completed, the basin volumes will allow for sediment storage of approximately 30,000 c.y. within Atascadero Creek, 10,000 c.y. within San Jose Creek, and 10,000 c.y. within San Pedro Creek. Either a ten or twelve inch discharge pipe attached to the dredge would be floated towards the mouth of the slough with the discharge point approximately 500 feet east of the mouth. With dredged spoils discharged directly in the surf zone east of the mouth, the spoils would be less likely to close the slough mouth and would pose minimal interference to beach goers.

The type of hydraulic dredge that could adequately desilt Goleta Slough would be the Ellicot 270/370 dragon series or a similar one used by San Diego Gas and Electric. These are diesel powered and are capable of moving approximately 200 C.Y. of sediment per hour. Due to the distance from the in-stream basins to the mouth of the slough, a diesel powered booster pump would be required to maintain the discharge at 200 c.y./hour. The booster pump would be stationed on the bank of the slough approximately 3000 feet from the in-stream basins.

Currently the in-stream basins are full and there is a great deal of material in the channels downstream of the proposed basins. Approximately 76,000 C.Y. of sediment will be removed from Atascadero, San Jose and San Pedro Creeks in Phase I which will re-establish the three in-stream sediment basins as well as pilot channels to the basins. Excavation of the pilot channels is necessary to provide tidal circulation to the basins. An additional 110,000 c.y. of sediment exists within the creeks downstream of the in-stream basins and will be removed in Phase II of the projects to reestablish the slough to its pre-1989 capacity. Since the creeks receive sediment at different rates due to many factors (e.g. Painted Cave Fire) it is not expected that all the creek basins would require desilting every year but on the average once every 3-5 years. The District will monitor the sediment accumulation and determine dredging as appropriate.
Dragline Desilting:
Removal of sediments from Carneros and Tecolotito Creeks is infeasible using a hydraulic dredge due to the distance from the discharge point, therefore sediment removal will be done with a dragline. A crane rigged as a dragline works from the sides of the creeks or basins, depositing the spoils on adjacent land. The spoils are made available to the public and are typically removed within one year. Sediment basins have previously been excavated on both Carneros and Tecolotito Creeks and each basin has a capacity of approximately 10,000 c.y. Dragline desilting is done on an as needed basis with each basin requiring maintenance approximately every 3-5 years.

Mouth Opening:
The District routinely opens the mouth of the slough 1 - 3 times a year using a dozer and/or an excavator. Upon mouth closure and at the lowest tide a trench is dug from the ocean toward the slough. Timing this activity at low tide allows the trench to scour deeper thus keeping the mouth of the slough open longer. The trench is dug just east of the Goleta Beach parking lot with the spoils piled to the east of the opening. By restoring the lost tidal prism within the slough, the mouth should remain open longer requiring less frequent maintenance.

Project Approvals:
The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission approved the Conditional Use Permit for this project on December 15, 1993. The EIR consultant recommended that the booster pump be electrified to reduce Air Quality Impacts (see 4.2.4.2 of 93-EIR-4) as this practice is common in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Harbors. The Planning Commission adopted findings that electrification of the booster pump is infeasible and the District should not implement this mitigation measure because of cost and additional impacts associated with the implementation of this mitigation measure, (See Planning Commission Action Letter, Attachment 2). The District concurs with their findings and has prepared findings accordingly.

The California Department of Fish & Game prepared an agreement for District activities in the Goleta Slough which was agreed to and signed by the District on November 22, 1993.

Permits will also be required from the City of Santa Barbara, California Coastal Commission, Corps of Engineers, State Lands Commission, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. All of these permits have been applied for and should be received by the District by March 1994. Since all the necessary permits won't be received in time to conduct maintenance this winter, maintenance will probably begin in the fall of 1994.

MANDATES & SERVICE LEVELS:
No change in programs or service level.

FISCAL IMPACT:
The District proposes to contract out the hydraulic dredging portion of the project for Atascadero, San Jose and San Pedro Creeks while conducting the dragline desilting for Carneros and Tecolotito Creeks as well as mouth opening with District personnel. The hydraulic dredging will cost approximately $340,601 for Phase I and $457,552 for Phase II. The ongoing maintenance will cost less because less material is excavated from the slough. These cost estimates are based on information received from San
Diego Gas and Electric which owns and operates a dredge that could complete this project. Dragline desilting Carneros and Tecolotito creeks will cost approximately $28,500. Costs of the other alternatives are included in Table 2.6-1 of 93-EIR-4.

Traditional dragline dredging of Atascadero, San Jose, and San Pedro Creeks would cost approximately $117,300 for Phase I and $170,500 for Phase II, however hauling the sediment to the beach would cost approximately $1 million dollars for each phase making hydraulic dredging less expensive.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a copy of the minute order to Karl Treiberg of the Flood Control District.
Concurrences: N/A
ATTACHMENT 1

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21081 AND THE CEQA GUIDELINES SECTIONS 15090 AND 15091:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO 93-EIR-4

The Supplement (SEIR) to 93-EIR-4 was presented to the Board of Directors and all voting members of the Board have reviewed and considered the SEIR and its appendices prior to approving this proposal. In addition, the Board has reviewed and considered testimony and additional information presented at or prior to the public hearing on September 12, 2000.

B. FULL DISCLOSURE

The Board of Directors finds and certifies that the SEIR constitutes a complete, accurate, adequate and good faith effort at full disclosure under CEQA, and represents the independent judgement of the Board of Directors. The Board further finds and certifies the SEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and is adequate for this project.

C. LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

The documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based are in the custody of the Deputy Director of the Water Resources Division, Santa Barbara County Public Works, located at 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

D. FINDINGS THAT CERTAIN IMPACTS ARE MITIGATED TO INSIGNIFICANCE BY CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The SEIR for the Goleta Slough Dredging Project identifies significant but mitigable impacts for Biological Resources, Recreation, and Water Resources. Each of these impacts is discussed below along with the appropriate findings as per CEQA Section 15091:

1. Biological Resources

Due to the noise and turbidity associated with dredging, steelhead could be expected to avoid the vicinity of the dredge, and dredging 24 hours a day could interfere with their migration upstream. Beginning maintenance October 15 will help avoid the rainy season when steelhead would be expected to be in the area. If the creeks entering the slough begin to flow, dredging will be reduced to less than 24 hours a day. These mitigation measures will reduce impacts to steelhead to a less than significant level.
2. Recreation

Discharging dredged sediments into the surfzone at Goleta Beach would have the potential to affect recreational activities. Closing the beach within 200' of the discharge and posting advisories on the beach informing the public of potential exposure to elevated levels of bacteria will protect beach users. These mitigation measures will reduce impacts to Recreation to a less than significant level.

3. Water Resources

Bacteria levels near the discharge location are expected to periodically exceed state criteria for protection of public health in the immediate vicinity of the discharge. Posting advisories at the beach prior to, during, and after dredging occurs will protect the public from exposure to elevated levels of bacteria. This mitigation measure will reduce impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the Board hereby adopts the approved project description and mitigation measures, with their corresponding mitigation monitoring requirements, as the monitoring program for this project. The monitoring program is designed to ensure compliance during project implementation and mitigation or avoidance of significant effects on the environment.
ATTACHMENT 1

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

1.1 CEQA FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21081 AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SECTIONS 15090 AND 15091:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE EIR

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), 93-EIR-04, was presented to the Board of Directors and all voting members of the Board have reviewed and considered the EIR, 93-EIR-04, its appendices prior to approving this proposal. In addition, the Board has reviewed and considered testimony and additional information presented at or prior to public hearing on January 4, 1994.

B. FULL DISCLOSURE

The Board of Directors finds and certifies that the Final EIR constitutes a complete, accurate, adequate and good faith effort at full disclosure under CEQA. The Board further finds and certifies the Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA.

C. FINDINGS THAT CERTAIN UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS ARE MITIGATED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE

The Final Environmental Impact Report on the Goleta Slough Maintenance Activities Project identify five environmental impacts which cannot be fully mitigated and are therefore considered unavoidable. Those impact areas are: air quality (Phase I and II), biological resources, noise, cultural resources, and aesthetics. To the extent the impacts remain significant and unavoidable, such impacts are acceptable when weighed against the overriding social, economic, and other considerations set forth in the Statement of Overriding Considerations included herein. Each of these "Class I" impacts identified by the Final EIR are discussed below, along with the appropriate findings as per CEQA Section 15091:

1. Air Quality

Mitigation of significant air quality impacts for phases I and II focused on the generation of air pollution precursors by equipment utilized in dredging activities. Dredging activities (Phase I) would exceed the threshold of 2.5 tons per three month period for NOx emissions. Two measures were analyzed: (1) retarding injection timing of diesel-powered equipment and (2) equipment
electrification. Retarding injection timing by two degrees would reduce NO\textsubscript{x} emissions by about 15 percent from diesel-powered equipment (Southwest Research Institute 1991). Implementation of this control measure on applicable diesel-powered equipment (dredging equipment, loader, yard crane, and dozer) would reduce Phase I and Phase II NO\textsubscript{x} emissions to 4.12/5.57 tons. Although retarding injection timing by more than two degrees would further reduce NO\textsubscript{x} emissions, it was not considered due to fuel economy penalties.

Equipment electrification would be limited to the booster pump, since it would be the only piece of equipment that would remain fairly stationary. Discussions between the District and SDG&E (owners of a proposed hydraulic dredge and booster pump) determined that implementation of this measure would require installation of a 4 kilovolt transformer station in the vicinity of the booster pump and a determination by Southern California Edison of whether there is adequate power in the electrical grid system in this area of the slough to operate the pump. Although implementation of an electric booster pump, in addition to injection timing retard on the remaining diesel-powered equipment, would reduce Phase I and Phase II NO\textsubscript{x} emissions to 2.05/3.05 tons, the Planning Commission recommends and the District concurs that electrification of the booster pump is infeasible due to the cost of the implementation of being approximately $50,000 not including electricity costs during operation and possible electrical line extensions, disturbance to wetlands due to the installation of a transformer station and costs of mitigating secondary impacts to the wetlands, impacts will remain Class I for Phase I and II. Therefore, NO\textsubscript{x} emissions would remain significant during Phase I and II (Class I).

2. Biological Resources

Significant vegetation impacts include loss of wetland and riparian vegetation in San Jose Creek. Vegetation in Atascadero and San Pedro Creeks has been precluded due to the large accumulation of sediments. For wildlife, significant impacts could occur for raptor and heron roosting/perching and swallow nesting, tidewater goby (if present), and aquatic biota if larger spills of fuel or other toxic fluids associated with dredge operation were to occur.

The District has adopted Standard Maintenance Practices (see the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for Santa Barbara County Flood Control Routine Maintenance Activities, 90-EIR-7) that include a number of measures to reduce impacts on biological resources, such as removal of non-native species and revegetation with native species where feasible. The District also has in place a Pesticide & Petroleum Leak and Spill Prevention & Clean-up Plan. This plan, however, deals almost exclusively with the use of pesticides. This plan has been required to be amended to include spill prevention and clean-up.
3. Noise

The proposed project and its alternatives (Phase I) would create short-term significant impacts to sensitive noise receptors (residents) along Atascadero Creek and at Goleta Beach. In all cases but two (near the Atascadero Creek basin under the Traditional Maintenance alternative and at the Goleta Beach ranger’s residence for all alternatives except Traditional Maintenance) significant impacts to nearby sensitive receptors would be reduced to insignificance (Class II) by restricting dredging in the basins to 10 hours a day. Class I impacts would also be reduced by the following measure, but not to insignificant levels.

4. Cultural Resources

Dredging for the proposed project has the potential to impact two archaeological sites. The project conditions include a mitigation strategy for implementation. All potentially significant archaeology sites that could be impacted by the project will be avoided. The FCD has indicated that avoidance is feasible. However, in the event avoidance is not possible or previously undiscovered resources are encountered, a Phase 2 and, if necessary a subsequent Phase 3 significance determination and data recovery, shall be carried out under the County’s Archaeological guidelines. An archaeologist and Native American representative shall monitor dredging activities in sensitive areas.

The District has developed Standard Maintenance Practices that would apply to this project (see the mitigation and monitoring reporting program for the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for Santa Barbara County Flood Control Routine Maintenance Activities, 90-EIR-7 - Attachment D).

5. Aesthetics

Dredging and staging areas for the proposed project have the potential to degrade views of Atascadero Creek from the bikeway, both from Phase I and II. Additionally, short-term deterioration of aesthetic resources of Goleta Beach would be impacted during Phase I and II.

No feasible mitigations for aesthetic impacts have been identified, although impacts would be minimized by restricting activities in the vicinity of Goleta Beach to the months between November and mid-April, since the beach receives less use during that period.
FINDINGS THAT CERTAIN IMPACTS ARE MITIGATED TO INSIGNIFICANCE BY CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The Final EIR (93-EIR-4) identified several subject areas for which the project is considered to cause or contribute to significant, but mitigable environmental impacts. Each of these impacts is discussed below along with the appropriate findings as per CEQA Section 15091:

1. Water Resources/Flooding

Deposition of dredged materials into the surf zone would introduce fecal coliform bacteria into ocean waters used for water contact recreation and shellfish harvesting. Testing and monitoring sediments before and during dredging shall ensure that coliform levels do not exceed bacteriological standards for bather safety. Therefore, this impact shall be reduced to a less than significant level.

2. Air Quality

Air Quality impacts associated with Phase I were found to exceed the RMD threshold of significance for NOx emissions of 2.5 tons per quarter. Two measures were analyzed: (1) retarding injection timing of diesel-powered equipment and (2) equipment electrification. Retarding injection timing by two degrees would reduce NOx emissions by about 15 percent from diesel-powered equipment (Southwest Research Institute 1991). Implementation of this control measure on applicable diesel-powered equipment (dredging equipment, loader, yard crane, and dozer) would reduce Phase I and Phase II NOx emissions to 4.12/5.57 tons. Although retarding injection timing by more than two degrees would further reduce NOx emissions, it was not considered due to fuel economy penalties.

Equipment electrification would be limited to the booster pump, since it would be the only piece of equipment that would remain fairly stationary. Discussions between the District and SDG&E (owners of a proposed hydraulic dredge and booster pump) determined that implementation of this measure would require installation of a 4 kilovolt transformer station in the vicinity of the booster pump and a determination by Southern California Edison of whether there is adequate power in the electrical grid system in this area of the slough to operate the pump. Although implementation of an electric booster pump, in addition to injection timing retard on the remaining diesel-powered equipment, would reduce Phase I and Phase II NOx emissions to 2.05/3.05 tons, the Planning Commission recommends and the District concurs that electrification of the booster pump is infeasible due to the cost of the implementation of being approximately $50,000 not including electricity costs during operation and possible electrical line extensions, disturbance to wetlands due to the installation of a transformer station and costs of mitigating...
secondary impacts to the wetlands, impacts will remain Class I for Phase I and II. Therefore, NO\textsubscript{x} emissions would remain significant during Phase I and II (Class I).

Additionally, during the ongoing maintenance activities, the FCD shall limit dredge volumes to avoid exceedance of the threshold. Impacts to air quality for ongoing maintenance would be reduced to a less than significant level through this mitigation. However, NO\textsubscript{x} emissions would remain significant during Phase I and II, as indicated in Section C above.

3. Biological Resources

Dredging activities in San Jose Creek would result in the loss of less than one acre of wetland/riparian vegetation. A mitigation for habitat restoration and enhancement on the creek banks has been included as part of the EIR and would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Disturbance to raptor or heron roosting and/or perching near the mouth of the Goleta Slough during both Phase I and II would be considered potentially significant impacts. Disruption of swallow nesting in Goleta Sough was also identified as a potentially significant impact. The FCD Biologist will monitor the responses of birds to the disturbance with the proposed activities and develop measure to reduce or eliminate impacts. Dredging shall be conducted in the summer and autumn to avoid bird nesting seasons. These mitigations shall reduce impacts to bird populations to a less than significant level.

The District has adopted Standard Maintenance Practices (see the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for Santa Barbara County Flood Control Routine Maintenance Activities, 90-EIR-7: Attachment D) that include a number of measures to reduce impacts on biological resources, such as removal of non-native species and revegetation with native species where feasible. The District also has in place a Pesticide & Petroleum Leak and Spill Prevention & Clean-up Plan, which will be amended to protect biological resources. This plan, however, deals almost exclusively with the use of pesticides, although it could be amended to include spill prevention and clean-up. Impacts of removing wetland and riparian vegetation in San Jose Creek shall be mitigated through restoration and enhancement of riparian and salt marsh habitat along the banks of San Jose Creek.

Deposition of dredged materials on Goleta Beach during both Phase I and II have the potential to preclude grunion spawning. Surveys shall be conducted during spawning season to determine if the beach is utilized by the grunion. If so, dredging activities shall be suspended at night and will reduce impacts to an insignificant level.
4. Risk of Upset/Hazardous Materials

A spill and contingency plan is required as part of the mitigations to reduce impacts resulting from a diesel spill in the slough. Additionally, the District shall coordinate with the Southern California Gas Company to assure that the pilings supporting the pipeline crossing in Atascadero Creek are able to withstand dredging activities.

The sediments at the dredge sites shall be tested for fecal coliform bacteria before and during project implementation to assess adherence to the established standards for water used for water-contact recreation and shellfish harvesting.

5. Noise

Dredging shall be limited to weekdays between 7:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. and the District shall inform the affected public of the expected duration and frequency of the project, as well as the need for and the benefits of the project. Property owners adjacent to the project activities shall be given the dredging schedule seven days in advance. Any alterations or additions shall require three day notification. All noise-generating equipment shall be properly maintained. Equipment shall be muffled to the extent feasible. Engine enclosure covers shall be used during operation of the equipment and the booster pump shall be located more than 400 feet from the ranger's residence or a noise barrier shall be constructed around the booster pump.

6. Traffic and Circulation

Traffic generated by the proposed project is expected to be negligible and short term. For all sites with the exception of San Jose Creek, a flagperson shall be designated to stop oncoming vehicular and bicycle traffic and allow the safe passage of construction vehicles.

The District shall be responsible for repairing the portion of the parking lot impacted by maintenance activities to its current standard or to a standard agreed to by both the County Park Department and the District. Repairs shall be begun within two weeks of the termination of maintenance activities. The District shall limit maintenance activities in the vicinity of Goleta Beach to the period between early November and mid-April.

E. FINDINGS THAT IDENTIFIED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES ARE NOT FEASIBLE

The Final EIR, 93-EIR-4, prepared for the project evaluated a no project alternative, a reduced project alternative, a larger project alternative with reduced maintenance, traditional maintenance, beach deposition of sediments, and placing pipelines on the ground as methods of reducing or eliminating
potentially significant environmental impacts. These alternatives are comparable in impact levels. Adoption of an alternative project would not result in reduced project impacts. None of the alternatives would provide a feasible method of reducing impacts. Given the nature of the maintenance activities, which must be site specific, no alternative locations were evaluated.

Dredging for the proposed basin sizes were intended to provide a balance between accommodating a reasonable amount of sediments, minimizing the area disturbed, and minimizing the frequency of maintenance.

1. No Project Alternative

This alternative was not selected because the objectives of the FCD mission of providing protection from flood, would not be accomplished and the Goleta Slough salt marsh would be converted to upland habitat, thus reducing the size of the Slough. Without the proposed project the area would be subject to continued siltation, reduction in the size of the Goleta Slough and increased flood hazard. However, no impacts associated with the proposed project would occur.

2. Reduced Basin Size

Reducing the size of the siltation basins was considered for Atascadero, San Pedro, and San Jose Creeks. Dimensions of the pilot channels would remain unchanged. The reduced basin sizes were designed to contain the average sediment load deposited over a 20 year period. Thus, maintenance would be required each year during typical weather conditions. Other aspects of the project would be essentially comparable to those described for the proposed action, although dredging would occur over a shorter period of time. Short-term impacts would be incrementally reduced due to a shorter construction period, but since maintenance would be required more frequently, overall impacts would remain the same as for the proposed project.

3. Increased Basin Size

Increasing the size of the siltation basins was considered for Atascadero, San Pedro, and San Jose Creeks. Dimensions of the pilot channels would remain unchanged. The length of the basin would extend further downstream from the proposed project and the pilot channel would be reduced by approximately 872 feet. Maintenance would be required less frequently than for the proposed action, but a larger area would be impacted. Dredging would take longer than for the proposed action, but maintenance would be required less often. Therefore, short term impacts would be somewhat higher that the proposed action, but less maintenance would be required. Therefore, impacts would be comparable to the proposed action.
4. Traditional Maintenance

This would continue dragline desilting in the proposed basins of all five creeks on an as-needed basis. Spoils would be deposited along the creekbanks for removal by the public. The FCD would continue to open the mouth of the Slough one to three times per year with a dozer and excavator. At the lowest tide after the mouth closed, a trench would be dug from the ocean toward the slough. The trench would be completed as close to the low tide as possible, thereby helping the channel to scour deeper and keeping the mouth of the slough open longer. Actual maintenance would take twice as long. Use of Atascadero Creek would be restricted as described for the proposed project, but would be short-term and insignificant. No staging area would be necessary at Goleta Beach, and conflicts between recreational and construction vehicles would be minimized. No impacts associated with the dredge plume would occur.

5. Beach Deposition

Rather than being disposed of in the surf zone, spoils from the dredging of Atascadero, San Pedro and San Jose creeks would be discharged directly onto the beach just east of the mouth of the slough. The beach is approximately 150 feet wide in this area and spoils would fill this area for a length of 1,500 feet and a depth of 3 feet. A berm would likely be constructed out of beach sand to contain the dredged material. A loader would be used to compact the dredged material. A second booster pump would be needed because approximately 1,000 feet of additional pipeline would be required. The second booster pump would probably be located in the immediate vicinity of Goleta Beach County Park. The quality of recreational experience would be greatly diminished, if not precluded and impacts would be significant and unmitigable (Class I). Ultimately, over the long term this alternative would create a larger beach which prove to be a beneficial impact (Class IV).

6. Placing Discharge Pipelines on the Ground

Discharge pipelines would be placed on the ground adjacent to channels rather than in the water. No floats would be required; therefore, approximately 20 truck trips required to haul floats and the pipeline would be eliminated. Other aspects of this alternative would be comparable to the proposed project.

F. STATEMENT OF OVER RIDING CONSIDERATIONS

The Final EIR 93-EIR-4 identify project impacts to air quality (Phase I and II), biological resources, noise, cultural resources, and aesthetics as significant environmental impacts which are considered unavoidable. The Board of Directors therefore makes the following Statement of Overriding Considerations which warrant approval of the project notwithstanding that all.
identified impacts are not fully mitigated. Pursuant to CEQA Sections 15043, 15092 and 15093, any remaining significant effects on the environment are acceptable due to these overriding considerations:

By approving the proposed project, the Board of Directors has adopted the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. Class I impacts have been identified for Air Quality (Phase I and II), Biological Resources, Noise, Cultural Resources, and Aesthetics. These Class I impacts would be mitigated to the maximum extent feasible by the recommended mitigation measures outlined in Section 4.0 of 93-EIR-4.

The Board of Directors recognizes that in the absence of the proposed project the probability of flooding in the vicinity of the Goleta Slough would be raised to unacceptable levels. The Board of Directors also recognizes that the proposed project is necessary to reduce the amount of sediment that is naturally deposited in the slough, and if not removed, will convert the salt marsh to uplands.

The Board of Directors therefore finds that the remaining unavoidable significant environmental effects are acceptable.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the Board hereby adopts the approved project description and mitigation measures, with their corresponding mitigation monitoring requirements, as the monitoring program for this project. The monitoring program is designed to ensure compliance during project implementation and mitigation or avoidance of significant effects on the environment.
EXHIBIT D

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
GOLETA SLOUGH DREDGING PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District proposes to remove sediments from the five creeks that drain into the Goleta Slough. Several impacts to the environment were identified in the EIR and recommended mitigation measures are described below with the timing and monitoring for each. District personnel will monitor this project to assure that all mitigation measures identified in 93-EIR-4 are complied with. The Environmental Coordinator for the project is Karl Treiberg. District biologists include Larry Fausett, and Maureen Spencer. District engineers include Rick Tomasini and John Frye. Daily monitoring logs will be completed by the monitors on-site each day and submitted to the Environmental Coordinator for distribution to appropriate agencies. This program, as well as a Spill Contingency Plan and a Risk Management Plan, will be submitted to the contractor(s) as part of the RFP.

Water Resources/Flooding:

4.1.4

1. Test sediment before and during dredging.
   
   **Timing:** Prior to and during dredging activities.
   
   **Monitoring:** The District biologist shall coordinate all testing of sediments with the appropriate agencies.

2. Post advisories at the beach immediately prior to, during, and for two days after dredging discharges occur.
   
   **Timing:** During beach discharges.
   
   **Monitoring:** The District shall check regularly to ensure that the signs are visible to the public while discharges are occurring.

Air Quality:

4.2.4

4.2.4.1

1a. Apply water to dirt roads, graded areas, and stockpiles to prevent dust from leaving the staging areas.

1b. Minimize vehicle speeds.

1c. After completion of maintenance activities, treat disturbed areas within the staging areas by watering, revegetating, or seeding in accordance to prevent...
wind erosion of the soil.

1d. Disturb the smallest practical amount of area within the staging areas and minimize the disturbance time.

1e. Designate personnel to monitor maintenance activities and ensure that excessive dust does not occur from the staging areas.

Timing: These mitigation measures shall be implemented during and after the project as appropriate.

Monitoring: The District biologist shall be responsible for implementation of these mitigation measures as appropriate.

2. If deemed economically feasible, the District shall ensure that high pressure fuel injectors are installed on project diesel equipment.

3a. Substitute compressed natural gas-powered vehicles for diesel or gasoline powered engines.

Timing: During the selection of a contractor to conduct dredging activities.

Monitoring: The District engineer will determine the feasibility of this mitigation measure in consultation with potential contractors. If it is deemed feasible, the District engineer will assure compliance with this mitigation measure.

3b. Curtail dredging activities during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations.

Timing: During periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations (O3 episodes).

Monitoring: The District biologist will be responsible for monitoring air quality and implementing this mitigation measure when appropriate.

4.2.4.2
4a. Maintenance equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications, unless otherwise stated below.

4b. Catalytic converters shall be installed on all gasoline-powered equipment, unless deemed infeasible.

4c. Fuel injection timing on diesel equipment shall be retarded by two degrees from manufacturer's specifications. The APCD shall be consulted to determine additional emission control technologies to apply to diesel construction equipment.
4d. The number of maintenance equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest practical number are operating at any one time.

Timing: The contractor shall be required to assure compliance with these mitigation measures before a contract is awarded. These recommendations shall be part of the specifications of the bid package.

Monitoring: The District biologist and/or District engineer shall assure compliance with these recommendations.

4e. The booster pump shall be electrified. Additional maintenance equipment shall be electrified where feasible.

Monitoring: This mitigation measure has been deemed infeasible by the S.B. County Planning Commission and the Flood Control District Board of Directors.

5. The District shall limit dredge volumes such that equipment usage will not exceed the RMD emissions threshold of 2.5 tons during a 3 month period. This would correspond to dredging 18,000 and 43,000 c.y. of spoils, respectively, by dragline and hydraulic equipment. This dredging volume assumes that all diesel powered equipment would implement injection timing retard of at least 2 degrees to minimize NOx emissions.

Biological Resources:

4.4.4

1. Impacts of removing wetland and riparian vegetation in San Jose Creek shall be mitigated through restoration and enhancement of riparian and salt marsh habitat along the banks of San Jose Creek.

Timing: The Revegetation Plan For Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Maintenance Program shall be used as a guide to revegetate the areas subject to revegetation. Revegetation shall take place concurrent with the dredging operations as the recommended schedule for dredging is also the best time to revegetate with riparian species.

Monitoring: Revegetation shall be monitored by a District biologist in accordance with the Revegetation Plan For Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Maintenance Program. Success of the revegetation shall be based on the Revegetation Plan and the California Department of Fish and Game agreement #5-527-92.
2. Potential adverse impacts to raptor and heron roosting/perching in the immediate project area shall be mitigated by limiting dredging to daytime hours or by developing a plan to monitor the response of the birds to project activities with specified actions to take place if adverse impacts are found.

**Timing:**
Dredging activities will take place between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, therefore preparation of a plan is not required.

**Monitoring:**
The District Biologist and/or Engineer will determine the dredging schedule.

3. A site-specific emergency spill contingency plan for hydraulic and dragline dredging shall be developed and implemented.

**Timing:**
The plan shall be prepared prior to sending and RFP for dredging activities.

**Monitoring:**
All cleanup activities for accidental spills shall be monitored by the District biologist and a report documenting the cleanup and any damage to biological resources shall be prepared and kept in the District files.

4. Not applicable.

5. The potential to grunion spawning and swallow nesting shall be avoided to the extent feasible.

**Timing:**
Schedule dredging between August and April.

**Monitoring:**
Project scheduling shall be coordinated with the District biologist and pre-project surveys for grunion shall be conducted by the District biologist.

6. Impacts of placing the hydraulic dredge discharge pipelines in upland areas containing native salt marsh vegetation and sensitive species such the Belding's savannah sparrow shall be mitigated through avoidance.

**Timing:**
The pipeline locations shall be determined prior to commencing dredging activities.

**Monitoring:**
The District biologist shall assist the dredge operator when locating pipeline routes.

7. Hydraulic dredging activities should be scheduled to begin earlier in the fall, October 15 to increase the probability of completing dredging prior to the rains that result in runoff which triggers steelhead migration into the slough and streams.
Scheduling dredging activities should occur at least two months before the work begins.

The District shall verify that the dredging contractor begins work by October 15 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Hydraulic dredging will be reduced to less than 24 hours per day after rainfall events that results in runoff as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Flow will be measured during runoff events.

The District will monitor flow rates at the Maria Ygnacio Creek gage and will verify that the contractor dredges according to the permitted hourly schedule.

The District shall coordinate with the Southern California Gas Company to assure that the pilings supporting the pipeline crossing in Atascadero Creek are able to withstand dredging activities.

The District engineer shall meet with the Southern California Gas Company prior to commencing dredging but after a contractor has been hired.

The District engineer shall assure that Southern California Gas Company concerns have been addressed.

The District shall prepare a Risk Management Plan.

The plan shall be prepared prior to sending out the RFP for dredging activities.

The District engineer shall be responsible for compliance with the plan.

Dredging shall be limited to weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Monitoring: The District biologist or engineer will act as the Noise Control Officer and shall ensure that these mitigation measures are implemented.

2. Inform the affected public of the expected duration and frequency of the project, as well as the need for and the benefits of the project. Property owners adjacent to the project activities shall be given the dredging schedule seven days in advance. Any alterations or additions shall require three day notification.

Timing: A dredging schedule shall be mailed to the affected public at least seven days in advance of the commencement of dredging activities.

Monitoring: The District biologist or engineer shall prepare and mail dredging schedules.

3. All noise generating equipment shall be properly maintained. Equipment shall be muffled to the extent feasible. Engine enclosure covers shall be used during operation of the equipment.

Timing: Immediately prior to commencement of dredging activities.

Monitoring: The District biologist or engineer shall assure that these recommendations have been implemented.

4. The booster pump shall be located more than 400' from the ranger's residence or a noise barrier shall be constructed around the booster pump.

Timing: Immediately prior to commencement of dredging activities.

Monitoring: The District biologist or engineer shall assure that these recommendations have been implemented.

Cultural Resources:

4.7.4

A mitigation and monitoring reporting program for the Standard Maintenance Practices is contained in 90-EIR-7.

1. Dredging excavation shall not occur within a minimum 25' distance measured along the top of creek banks, and within 5' of the existing creek bank toe of slope adjacent to Locus 2 and SBA-45 site boundaries. These avoidance areas shall be temporarily staked during construction.

Timing: The avoidance boundaries shall be staked immediately prior to commencement of dredging activities.

Monitoring: The avoidance boundaries shall be staked by a qualified archaeologist.
2,3 & 4. These mitigation measures only apply if mitigation measure #1 is not implemented. It has been concluded that avoidance (mitigation measure #1) is feasible.

5. All dredging operations within archaeological sites and buffer areas shall be monitored by a County-approved archaeologist and local Native American representative. If unexpected archaeological remains are encountered, dredging activities shall be redirected elsewhere until the significance of the materials can be evaluated pursuant to County Cultural Resource Guidelines. If significant and feasible, dredging activities shall be redesigned to avoid further disturbances to the cultural deposit. If not avoidable, Phase III data recovery excavations shall be undertaken pursuant to County Cultural Resources Guidelines.

**Timing:**
During dredging activities in sensitive areas.

**Monitoring:**
A qualified archaeologist and Native American representative shall implement these mitigation measures.

**Traffic/Circulation:**

4.9.4

1. For all sites with the exception of San Jose Creek, a flagperson shall be designated to stop oncoming vehicular and bicycle traffic and allow the safe passage of construction vehicles.

**Timing:**
During activities that could impact bicycle and vehicle traffic.

**Monitoring:**
The District Engineer shall assure that this mitigation measure is implemented.

**Recreation:**

4.10.4

1. The District shall be responsible for repairing the portion of the parking lot impacted by maintenance activities to its current standard or to a standard agreed to by both the County Park Department and the District. Repairs shall be begun within two weeks of the termination of maintenance activities.

**Timing:**
District and Parks Department staff shall inspect the parking lot prior to and after District activities to determine the extent of damage caused by District activities.

**Monitoring:**
The District Engineer shall conduct the inspection with Parks Department staff.
2. The District shall limit maintenance activities in the vicinity of Goleta Beach to the period between early October 15 and mid-April.

**Timing:** Between October 15 and April 15.

**Monitoring:** The District biologist and engineer will schedule all maintenance activities between October 15 and April 15.

3. To avoid potential safety impacts from dredging operations, the portion of the beach and water within 200' of the dredge discharge shall be closed to public access for the duration of dredging.

**Timing:** Immediately prior to and during dredging.

**Monitoring:** The District shall check the advisory markers on a regular basis during dredge discharge operations to ensure that they are visible to the public.

4. To prevent public exposure to bacteria in ocean waters, beach advisories shall be posted in accordance with state and public health standards. The advisories shall be posted at the onset of dredging by the District.