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2 **2.1 PURPOSE AND NEED/PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

3 The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act  
4 (CEQA) require the identification of the purpose and need or project objectives,  
5 respectively, sought by the Mohave Valley Conservation Area Backwater Project  
6 (Project). Under NEPA, the purpose and need is used to establish the basis for the  
7 development of the range of reasonable alternatives, if any, to assist with the  
8 identification and selection of the preferred alternative.<sup>2</sup> Under CEQA, the Project  
9 objective provides an explanation of the underlying fundamental purpose of the Project.<sup>3</sup>  
10 In this Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/MND), the NEPA  
11 Purpose and Need and the CEQA Project Objectives are interchangeable (Table 1.3-1).

12 The purpose and need/objectives of the proposed Project is to create connected  
13 backwater habitat in Reach 3 on the Lower Colorado River (River) to enhance the  
14 conservation of native fishes through implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-  
15 Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) (LCR  
16 MSCP 2004a). In the HCP, Conservation Measure FLSU1 requires the LCR MSCP to  
17 “Create 85 acres of flannelmouth sucker habitat. Of the 360 acres of LCR MSCP-  
18 created backwaters, at least 85 acres will be created in Reach 3 with water depth,  
19 vegetation, and substrate characteristics that provide the elements of flannelmouth  
20 sucker habitat.” The Project location is within the historic floodplain of the River and  
21 provides suitable site characteristics that would allow for creation of the backwater  
22 habitat. The Project is needed to ensure Federal and California Endangered Species  
23 Acts (ESA and CESA, respectively) compliance for Federal and non-Federal entities  
24 operating on the River and implementing the LCR MSCP.

25 **2.2 PROJECT LOCATION**

26 The proposed Project is located directly adjacent to the Colorado River between River  
27 Miles 236 and 237 as seen in Figure 2.2-1 below. It is about 13 miles from Needles,  
28 California. To the south of the Project site are Interstate 40 (I-40) and Pirate’s Cove  
29 Restaurant & Bar.

30 **2.3 CURRENT CONDITIONS**

31 The Park in total is nearly 1,400 acres and has two land owners: the California State  
32 Lands Commission (CSLC) and Reclamation. The parcel of interest, while no longer  
33 submerged, resides within the historic River channel and is owned by the CSLC. The  
34 Park Moabi Channel was dredged in 1961 to create a deep water area to improve boat  
35 launching and the sport fishery. Today, the LCR MSCP stocks and monitors native  
36 razorback suckers within the Park Moabi Channel.

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<sup>2</sup> Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1502.13, Purpose and need.

<sup>3</sup> State CEQA Guidelines section 15124, subdivision (b).

1

Figure 2.2-1. Project Site Map



1 The proposed Project site is currently being used as an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV)  
2 recreational area. The proposed Project site consists of dredged spoils placed there by  
3 the Reclamation from dredging and bankline/levee maintenance conducted by the  
4 Reclamation itself. There are also invasive species like saltcedar, mesquite series,  
5 arrowweed series, creosote bush series, sand dunes, and desert wash/riparian. There  
6 are no structures on the proposed Project site.

7 In recent years the concessionaire under contract with San Bernardino County (County)  
8 has significantly developed the services available within the Park. Currently, the Park  
9 provides a 7-lane launch ramp, a marina, Recreational Vehicle (RV) and tent camping,  
10 waterfront cabins, a convenience store, and the Pirate's Cove Restaurant & Bar. In  
11 2012, the County proposed plans to make the 149-acre parcel into an OHV recreational  
12 area. The OHV use area consists of land within a dredge spoil area located within the  
13 County lease area and provides open riding and designated, signed trails for OHV use.  
14 The OHV area re-established inner-park limited speed OHV access trails adjacent to  
15 existing internal roadways, designated roadway crossings, and OHV temporary parking  
16 sites and staging areas.

17 In late 2012, the LCR MSCP approached the CSLC and the County with the Project. At  
18 that time, the County was willing to accommodate both projects. The Project area is the  
19 entire parcel including the inlet and outlet water channels used to connect the main  
20 stem of the River to the backwater and the Park Moabi Channel. The California  
21 Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW or Applicant) proposes to enter into a lease with  
22 CSLC to partner with Reclamation for the management and maintenance of the 50  
23 acres of restored open backwater, wetland, and upland habitat to be constructed. The  
24 remaining 99 acres currently leased to the County would be used as a staging area  
25 during construction. After Construction, the County would resume and continue to  
26 operate the remaining 99 acres as a designated OHV area.

#### 27 **2.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT/PROPOSED ACTION**

28 In April 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological and  
29 Conference Opinion (BO) to Reclamation covering routine operations and maintenance  
30 activities along the River. As part of this BO, the USFWS called for stakeholders along  
31 the lower River to develop and implement the LCR MSCP. This effort was completed in  
32 2005 after approval of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental  
33 Impact Report (EIS/EIR) which evaluated the environmental effects associated with  
34 implementation of the HCP for the LCR MSCP that was developed to balance the use of  
35 the River water resources with the conservation of native species and their habitats.  
36 The incidental take permits for the LCR MSCP issued under Section 10 of the ESA and  
37 Section 2081 of the CESA require the Permittees to implement the HCP.

38 Under the guidance of the LCR MSCP's HCP the program is tasked with creating 85  
39 acres of connected backwater habitat between Davis and Parker Dams. HCP  
40 Conservation Measure FLSU1 states, "Create 85 acres of flannelmouth sucker habitat.  
41 Of the 360 acres of LCR MSCP-created backwaters, at least 85 acres will be created in  
42 Reach 3 with water depth, vegetation, and substrate characteristics that provide the  
43 elements of flannelmouth sucker habitat" (see Figure 1.4-1).

1 The Big Bend Conservation Area south of Laughlin, Nevada, currently accounts for 15  
2 acres, leaving 70 acres to be created. Much of the bank line within Reach 3 is  
3 developed or runs through Topock Gorge, which is composed of steep, rocky terrain  
4 that is unsuitable for backwater development. However, within the Park south of  
5 Needles, California, a 149-acre parcel of land residing within the historic floodplain of  
6 the lower River remains undeveloped and possesses the potential to be developed into  
7 connected backwater habitat.

8 The Park in total is nearly 1,400 acres and has two land owners: the CSLC and  
9 Reclamation. The parcel of interest resides within the abandoned River channel and is  
10 owned by the CSLC. The LCR MSCP is partnering with the CSLC, County, and CDFW,  
11 the proposed lessee, on developing a backwater through the 149-acre parcel just north  
12 of the existing Park Moabi Channel. Following the guidelines of the HCP, the backwater  
13 must be connected to the River so that is it accessible to native fish from the main stem.  
14 The development of the backwater would connect to and induce additional flow through  
15 the existing Park Moabi Channel. Other listed species already in the River and Channel,  
16 like the razorback sucker, may also benefit from the backwater creation.

17 For this Project, Reclamation proposes to design, create, operate, and maintain  
18 approximately 50 acres of backwater habitat within a 149-acre parcel owned in fee by  
19 the CSLC that is currently part of the Park and would maintain the 50 acres leased by  
20 CDFW on behalf of the LCR MSCP. The remaining 99 acres leased by the County  
21 would be used as a staging area during construction. Upon Project completion, the  
22 remaining 99 acres would continue to be operated and maintained as a designated  
23 OHV area by the County.

24 Under this alternative, Reclamation would enter into a land use agreement with the  
25 County and CDFW to restore and create, operate, maintain, and monitor backwater and  
26 marsh habitat within the Project area through the creation of natural channels and  
27 aquatic habitat, and re-vegetation of native plants such as cottonwood/willow and  
28 mesquite. The Project would be constructed incorporating the general design and target  
29 criteria identified in the LCR MSCP FEIS/EIR and the HCP discussed in Section 1.5.

30 The Project would satisfy the needs/objectives by including the following design  
31 elements:

- 32 • Connected backwater channel from the River to the Park Moabi channel for  
33 native fish;
- 34 • Water control structures to control flows, provide for water elevation stabilization,  
35 and exchange water from the River;
- 36 • Roadway/bridge crossings for vehicle access;
- 37 • Primitive boat ramps intended for Project management (i.e., not public  
38 recreation) purposes; and
- 39 • Landscape re-contouring and habitat restoration to create marsh, riparian, and  
40 upland habitat for use by other wildlife species.

1 The Project would be implemented in four phases. Phases 1 through 3 would span two  
2 to three years. The first three phases would incorporate vegetation clearing, excavation,  
3 construction, and re-vegetation. Following these phases, Phase 4 would include habitat  
4 management, operation, and maintenance for the life of the LCR MSCP.<sup>4</sup>

5 **Phase 1 – Vegetation Clearing.** During Phase 1, vegetation (primarily non-native) such  
6 as saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.), within the 149-acre parcel would be removed. This would  
7 be accomplished by a combination of manual and mechanical clearing (i.e., land-based  
8 mechanical and hydraulic equipment). Manual clearing would be conducted with hand  
9 tools such as shovels, clippers, and grubbers. Mechanical clearing would be conducted  
10 with equipment including, but not limited to, scraper tractor, track hoes, front loaders,  
11 and skid steers. The equipment would be used to remove and break down vegetation  
12 debris into manageable pieces to be buried on-site. A bulldozer or similar equipment  
13 may be used to pile and stage the vegetation debris within the Project site until it is  
14 collected and buried under fill material at the on-site disposal area (Figure 2.4-1). Land-  
15 based mechanical and hydraulic equipment being used for the Project would be  
16 obtained from the local area and transported to the Project area. Equipment would be  
17 staged within the Project area. Herbicide use and mechanical treatment may be  
18 necessary during Phase 1 and all subsequent Project phases to eliminate and prevent  
19 undesired growth/regrowth of invasive vegetation.

20 Vegetation clearing would prepare the Project area for Phase 2 – Excavation, Dredging,  
21 and Construction, and Phase 3 – Establishment and Re-Vegetation. To avoid impacts to  
22 potentially nesting migratory birds or other special-status species that may inhabit the  
23 area, vegetation clearing for Phase 1 would commence at the beginning of March (prior  
24 to the nesting season) before the vegetation is occupied by breeding/nesting birds. If  
25 Phase 1 vegetation clearing does not start prior to the vegetation being used by  
26 breeding/nesting birds, then Phase 1 would be conducted during September through  
27 February to avoid nesting season. Work hours would be in accordance with the San  
28 Bernardino County Development Code, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00  
29 p.m. (SBC 2007).

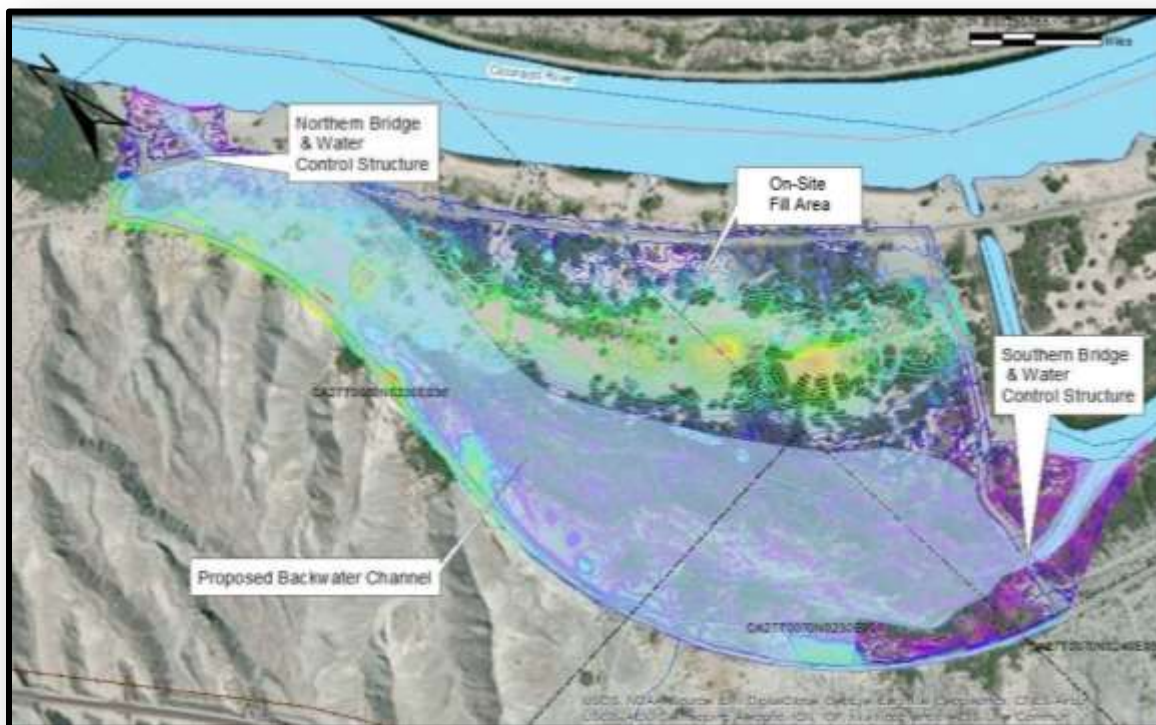
30 **Phase 2 – Excavation and Construction.** Upon the completion of sufficient vegetation  
31 clearing described in Phase 1, a managed backwater habitat channel system between  
32 the River and the Park Moabi channel would be constructed. All clearing and  
33 construction activities would occur within the 149 acres, and no open water construction  
34 is anticipated. The backwater channel system would incorporate inlet and outlet water  
35 control structures and roadway crossings over the excavated backwater channel at the  
36 upstream and downstream ends as shown in the Draft Design Report (Appendix A).

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<sup>4</sup> A draft design report, Lower Colorado River Park Moabi Backwater Channel Restoration Design: Design Report 60% Draft for the Mohave Valley Conservation Area Ecological Restoration Project, Park Moabi San Bernardino County, California (Draft Design Report) (Otis Bay Inc. and Tetra Tech Inc. 2015), was prepared in April 2015 at 60% completion (Appendix A). The design, specifications, and construction activities incorporated in this EA/MND are taken from the Draft Design Report. Although the Draft Design Report is currently in draft at 60% completion at the preparation of this EA/MND, the overall conceptual design to include the system infrastructure (i.e., backwater channel, water control structures, roadway and boat access) has fulfilled the LCR MSCP HCP guidelines referenced in Section 1.5 of this EA/MND.

1

**Figure 2.4-1. Project Draft Site Map at 60% Design**



2 *Backwater Channel Excavation*

3 The backwater channel system would be designed to provide water inflow and outflow  
4 flexibility for adaptive management. The backwater habitat would be created through  
5 dry-cutting (dry land excavation) to establish a new channel within the Project area  
6 (Figure 2.4-1).

7 Dry-cutting would involve earthwork consisting of excavation, grading, and contouring of  
8 the perimeter of the backwater channel that would extend from the River to the existing  
9 Park Moabi Channel. Excavated material would consist of dry fill gathered above the  
10 ground water elevation. Areas within the footprint of the backwater channel may be  
11 excavated until the groundwater elevations are reached and further if necessary and  
12 feasible.

13 Groundwater elevations within the Project area fluctuate between a depth of 3.5 and 13  
14 feet with the rise and fall of the River. Excavation would be accomplished through the  
15 use of mechanical and hydraulic equipment such as excavators, back hoes, skid steers,  
16 and front loaders.

17 As indicated by the Draft Design Report (Appendix A), during the earthwork and  
18 excavation, approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of compacted fill would be excavated.  
19 Dry fill materials would be placed directly adjacent to the newly excavated channel to  
20 bury the vegetation debris collected during Phase 1 (Figure 2.4-1).

## 1 Backwater Channel Design

2 The backwater channel design would incorporate the construction of two new water  
3 control structures which would be concrete arch culverts to allow water to flow through  
4 the inlet (Northern Structure) and outlet (Southern Structure) (Figure 2.4-1). The design  
5 would provide spatially variable topography with an appropriate distribution of depths  
6 (between 0 to -15 feet) and velocities for a variety of aquatic habitats. In addition, the  
7 design would accommodate seasonal flows and fluctuations of the River.

8 An engineered fill mat would be laid within the area below the new culvert and any  
9 appurtenant wing wall footing to stabilize the subsurface soil conditions within the  
10 channel. The new backwater channel would be constructed with riprap bank protection  
11 to prevent scour at the downstream end of the culverts. The riprap material would be  
12 similar material currently used within the River and Park Moabi channel that would be  
13 obtained from an existing Reclamation stockpile along the River (Figure 2.4-2).

### 14 **Figure 2.4-2. Example Riprap Material**



## 15 Water Control Structure Construction

16 To control water flows at the inlet and outlet of the backwater channel, water control  
17 structures would be constructed at the concrete arch culverts. The water control  
18 structures would provide hydraulic control for flows in and out of the backwater channel  
19 during moderate to high flows in the River. Water control structures would also limit the  
20 amount of River bed sediment entering the backwater channel. The water control  
21 structures would be designed to include:

- 22 • A stop-log system to provide an adjustable crest elevation to regulate the water  
23 surface in the channel; and

- 1       • A sill elevation for water inflow and outflow flexibility to enable adjustment for  
2       adaptive management

3       The final design and specification of the water control structures would incorporate the  
4       design criteria that would accommodate the mean velocity of water flow through the  
5       backwater channel to remain below 0.5 feet/second during channel depth of 0-15 feet  
6       and would also accommodate daily and seasonal water level fluctuations of the River  
7       and the regular exchange of water between the River and the Park Moabi channel. The  
8       concrete arch culverts would be constructed after excavation and prior to the start of  
9       dredging operations to allow a steady flow of water required for the operation and prior  
10      to connecting the backwater channel to the River.

### 11      Roadway/Bridge Crossing Construction

12      To provide access at the intersections of existing roadways where the backwater  
13      channel would be excavated at the inflow and outflow, structural roadway/bridge  
14      crossings would be constructed atop the upstream and downstream concrete arch  
15      culverts that would span the length and width of the inlet and outlet structures.  
16      Temporary closure of the existing roadway atop the water control structures may be  
17      needed during its construction. Once the water control structures are in place, the  
18      roadway/bridge crossings would be constructed to reconnect the existing roadway. The  
19      unpaved roadways within the Project area would be constructed of untreated road base  
20      and aggregate that would be compacted to the maximum dry density.

### 21      Backwater Access Points

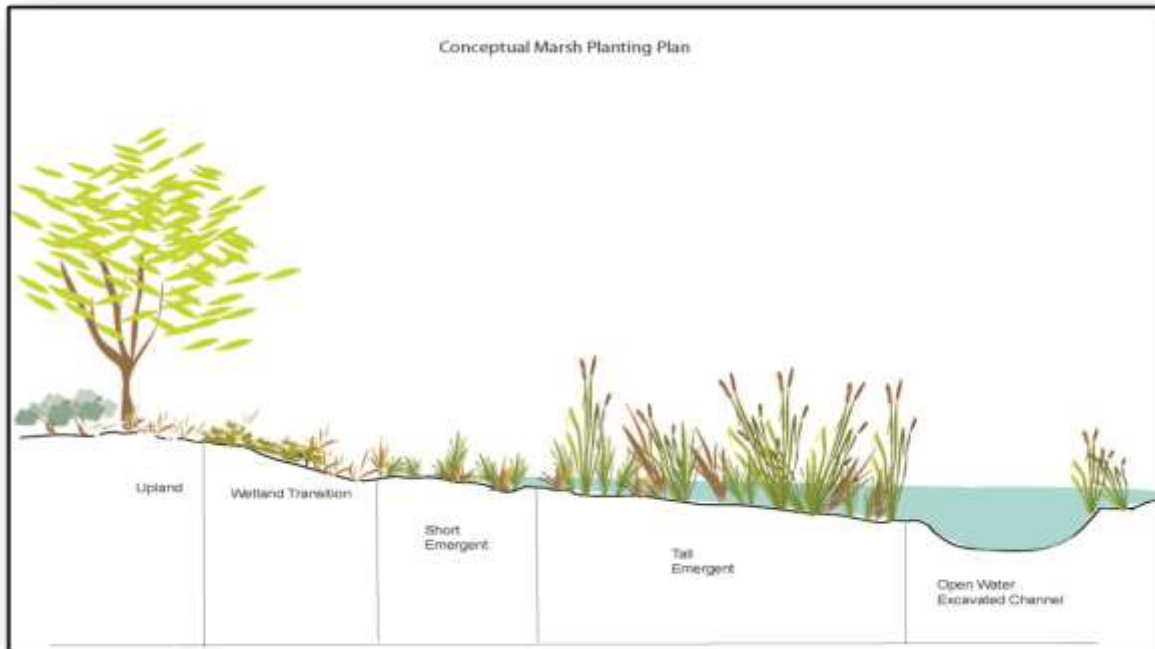
22      The Project design of the backwater channel would include a primitive boat ramp to  
23      provide an access point for use by the LCR MSCP staff to maintain and operate the  
24      backwater and its structures upon completion of all of the phases of the Project. The  
25      boat ramp would be accessed by an existing road and would be constructed for official  
26      Project use limiting access to lightweight and non-motorized boat launching. The low  
27      impact design of the backwater access point is intended to blend with the surrounding  
28      features of the backwater channel.

29      **Phase 3 – Establishment/Re-Vegetation.** Upon the implementation of Phase 1 and 2,  
30      landscape restoration would be conducted through the tilling along the contours of the  
31      backwater channel and planting of four land cover types (Figure 2.4-3). The distribution  
32      and design for re-vegetation follows the recommendations outlined in the HCP and  
33      incorporates plant types that already occur in the Park area. The four land cover types  
34      that would be created within the 149 acres would include approximately (Figure 2.4-3):

- 35      • 26 acres of open deep backwater areas;
- 36      • 24 acres of shallow marsh areas (e.g., bulrush, cattail [*Typha* spp.], and other  
37      native reed species);
- 38      • 15 acres of cottonwood/willow areas (e.g., Goodding's willow [*Salix gooddingii*],  
39      coyote willow [*Salix exigua*], and Fremont cottonwood [*Populus fremontii*]); and
- 40      • 37 acres of upland areas (e.g., honey mesquite and arrowweed [*Pluchea sericea*]).



1 **Figure 2.4-3. Example of Phase 3 Planting Scheme – Establishment/**  
 2 **Re-Vegetation**

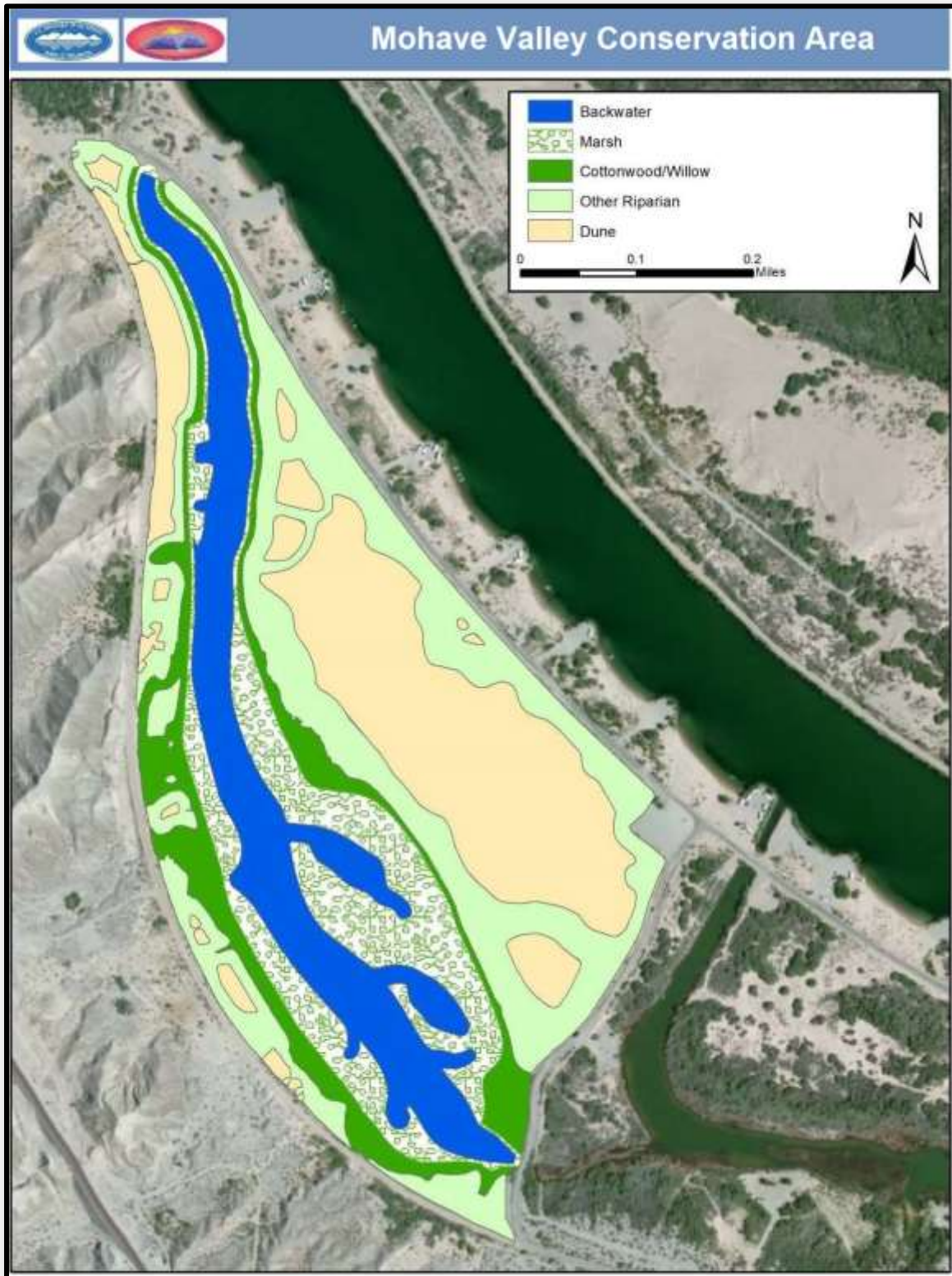


3 The combined total area for the backwater and marsh land cover habitats would be  
 4 approximately 50 acres, which would be submerged underwater. The 52 (15+37) acres  
 5 of riparian and upland vegetation of cottonwood/willow, honey mesquite and arrowweed  
 6 would be planted to stabilize and re-vegetate the perimeter of the fill area. For MSCP  
 7 habitat credit purposes, only approximately 50 acres of backwater created land cover  
 8 habitat would be used towards the goal of 85 acres in Reach 3 for flannelmouth sucker.

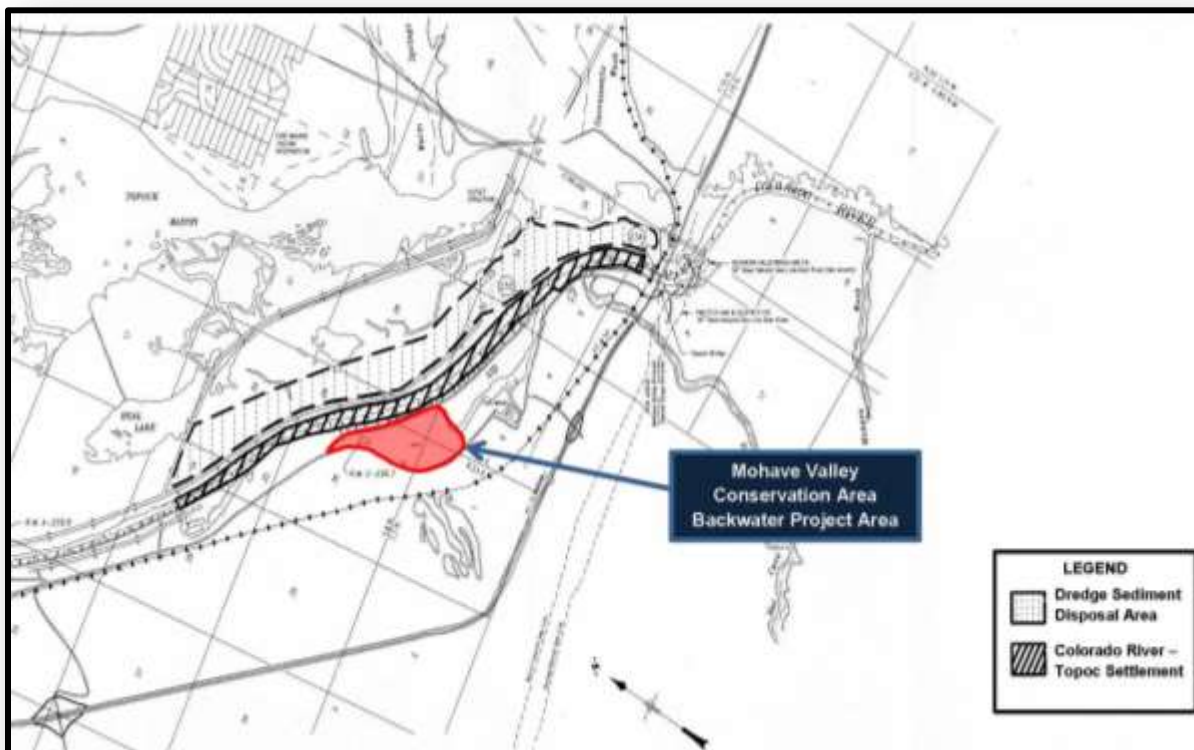
9 **Phase 4 – Habitat Management, Operations, and Maintenance.** Phases 1 through 3  
 10 would be designed to limit the long-term maintenance requirements of the backwater  
 11 habitat. A Draft Mohave Valley Backwater Restoration Development and Monitoring  
 12 Plan (Development and Monitoring Plan) (Appendix B) has been prepared and would be  
 13 implemented by LCR MSCP to address habitat/vegetation management, as well as  
 14 operation and maintenance of the constructed facilities (e.g., water control structures),  
 15 roadway access, and backwater access. The Development and Monitoring Plan follows  
 16 the guidelines of the HCP and identifies the development of the Project and the  
 17 applications used to manage and maintain the Project area. In addition, the  
 18 Development and Monitoring Plan includes fish and wildlife monitoring and reporting  
 19 methods, and success criteria (Appendix B).

20 In Phase 4, dredging operations are anticipated to occur as needed to manage  
 21 sediment accumulation and to maintain the backwater channel depth of at least 10 feet.  
 22 The dredge material would be placed at a previously designated and approved disposal  
 23 site by moving material with a deep sunken pipe attachment to place the sediment  
 24 along the River on the Arizona River bank (Figure 2.4-5). The pipe used to move the  
 25 dredge material across the River would be submerged at a depth to ensure no  
 26 obstruction to navigable waters. The pipe would be removed at the completion of work.

1 **Figure 2.4-4. Land Cover Types for Vegetation Restoration at 60% Design**



1 **Figure 2.4-5. Proposed Designated Sediment Disposal Site for Dredge Material**  
 2 **with Topock Setting Basin**<sup>5</sup>



3 **2.4.1 Timing Considerations and Estimated Schedule**

4 The Project schedule for the proposed four phases is provided in Table 2.4-1.

5 **Table 2.4-1. Anticipated Project Schedule**

Phase	Activity	Time Period
<b>1: Vegetation Clearing</b>	Spring 2016 earth work begins	March 2016 - November 2016
<b>2: Excavation and Construction</b>	Summer 2016 construction begins	August 2016 - May 2017
<b>3: Establishment/ Re-Vegetation</b>	Spring 2017 planting begins	April 2017 - June 2017
<b>4: Habitat Management, Operations, and Maintenance</b>	Spring 2017 monitoring and site maintenance begins	April 2017 - remaining life of program

<sup>5</sup> The Topock Setting Basin is covered under the LCR MSCP for sediment disposal.

1 **2.4.2 Proposed Construction Area, Equipment, and Personnel**

2 The Project area includes the 149 acre State-owned parcel, which includes the main  
 3 parcel bound by gravel roads as well as lands used to connect the backwater to the  
 4 main stem of the River and the Park Moabi Channel. Table 2.4-2 lists the equipment  
 5 and personnel that are anticipated to implement the Project during each phase.

6 **Table 2.4-2. Anticipated Project Equipment and Personnel**

Phase	Equipment/Activity		
	Type/Activity	Quantity	Personnel
<b>1: Vegetation Clearing</b>	D6R Dozers	2	2 operators
	John Deere Tractor Scrapers	3	3 operators
	Excavator	1	1 operator
	4000 Gallon Water Truck	1	1 operator
<b>2: Excavation and Construction</b>	140M Motor Grader	1	1 operator
	D6R Dozers	2	2 operators
	John Deere Tractor Scrapers	3	3 operators
	Excavator	1	1 operator
	4000 Gallon Water Truck	1	1 operator
	Crane	1	1 operator
<b>3: Establishment/ Re-Vegetation</b>	Planting		8 Planting Crew Members
	140M Motor Grader	1	1 operator
	4000 Gallon Water Truck	1	1 operator
<b>4: Habitat Management, Operations, and Maintenance</b>	Fisheries Monitoring		2 Biologists 3 Biological Technicians
	4000 Gallon Water Truck	1	1 operator
	Dredge (for possible future backwater maintenance)	1	1 operator

7 **2.4.3 Other Project Design Features and Considerations**

8 **Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project**

9 Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project by Reclamation to ensure  
 10 impacts are avoided or lessened, such that they remain less than significant. These  
 11 measures would be implemented for the following resources:

- 12 • Biological Resources
- 13 • Cultural and Paleontological Resources/Traditional Cultural Properties/Sacred  
14 Sites
- 15 • Hazards/Hazardous Materials/Human Health and Safety
- 16 • Hydrology and Water Quality
- 17 • Transportation/Traffic

1 The full explanation of each mitigation measure for each identified potentially significant  
2 impact is provided in Section 3 of this EA/MND. In addition, a Mitigation Monitoring  
3 Program is provided in Section 5.

#### 4 **2.4.4 Alternatives**

5 A discussion of alternatives to the proposed Action is included below to meet the  
6 requirements of NEPA.

7 **No Project Alternative (No Action Alternative).** Under this alternative, the CSLC  
8 would not issue a lease to CDFW within the Park and the agreement between  
9 Reclamation, the County, and CDFW would not be implemented. Reclamation would  
10 not enter into the land use agreement; consequently the backwater habitat would not be  
11 created to meet the goals of the LCR MSCP. The 149 acres of land within the Park  
12 would remain under the management of the County and designated for OHV use.

13 **Alternatives Considered but Not Evaluated in Detail.** Reclamation considered the  
14 following additional alternatives that featured LCR MSCP general design criteria and  
15 targets outlined in Section 1.5. The following alternatives have been eliminated from  
16 further evaluation for the reasons described below.

#### 17 Dredging Alternative

18 This alternative identifies excavation of dry material and dredging of wet material to  
19 create the proposed 50 acres of backwater habitat. The excavation work would continue  
20 until the groundwater elevation is reached. Dredging operations were included in this  
21 alternative to access and remove wet material below the groundwater elevation. Phase  
22 1 construction of water control features and the implementation of the subsequent  
23 phases (2-4) of the Project would remain the same within this alternative.

24 Although this alternative would allow for a wide range of activity options to create the  
25 backwater channel in the event deeper depth are required for the final specifications to  
26 control water flows in and out of the channel, this alternative is not incorporated into the  
27 Project as part of the construction of the backwater discussed in Section 2.4 because  
28 dredging equipment would not be available at the time of the scheduled implementation  
29 of Phase 1 and 2. The Project described in this EA/MND provides an option to achieve  
30 the backwater channel specifications and infrastructure and to ensure environmental  
31 and human health and safety.

#### 32 Other Feasible Location Alternative

33 Backwater construction in other locations within Reach 3 were not considered at this  
34 time because feasibility studies have not yet been conducted or completed for other  
35 locations. The Project is the first backwater habitat restoration project being proposed  
36 for the flannelmouth sucker because a feasibility study has already been conducted.  
37 LCR MSCP continues to conduct feasibility studies to evaluate additional locations for  
38 the restoration of backwater habitats to achieve the goal of 85 acres.

**1 2.4.5 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects**

2 Both NEPA and CEQA require lead agencies to examine impacts that, even if they are  
 3 not individually significant, may be cumulatively considerable. Cumulative impacts are  
 4 defined as impacts to the environment that result from the incremental impact of the  
 5 action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions  
 6 regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes the action.  
 7 Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant,  
 8 actions taking place over a period of time (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR]  
 9 1508.7).

10 The discussion below addresses the cumulative impacts of the Project in combination  
 11 with other projects or management activities. The list below identifies activities (past,  
 12 present, and reasonably foreseeable) that are either located in the vicinity of the  
 13 proposed Project area or have been identified as having the potential for cumulative  
 14 impacts when considered in addition to the impacts of the Project. These actions will be  
 15 addressed as appropriate in Section 3.

16 Other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions by Federal, State, and  
 17 local agencies within the Project area that would be considered in the cumulative  
 18 impacts section of each resource area are identified in Table 2.4-3.

19 **Table 2.4-3. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Past Projects</b>	
Moabi Regional Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHV use and operations</li> <li>• RV and tent camping areas</li> <li>• 7 lane boat launch area</li> <li>• Marina</li> <li>• Waterfront cabins and convenience store</li> </ul>
Pirate’s Cove Restaurant & Bar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Café and Bar</li> <li>• Zip Lining</li> </ul>
Dredging Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment control operations</li> <li>• Stockpile management of dredge spoil material</li> <li>• Operations conducted by Reclamation’s Yuma Area Office</li> </ul>
PG&E Topock Compressor Station CERCLA Remediation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater and soil investigation and remediation</li> </ul>
<b>Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects</b>	
Dredging Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment control operations</li> <li>• Stockpile management of dredge spoil material</li> <li>• Operations conducted by Reclamation’s Yuma Area Office</li> </ul>
PG&E Topock Compressor Station CERCLA Remediation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater and soil investigation and remediation</li> </ul>

Notes: CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation Liability Act