

4.15 Recreation

This section evaluates the potential impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative on recreation. This evaluation includes an assessment of the direct, indirect, short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects of the Moosa 100K Alternative on existing and planned recreational uses and trail alignments. The evaluation is based on a review of applicable recreational planning documents and maps.

4.15.1 Affected Environment

4.15.1.1 Environmental Setting

Information on regional and local recreational facilities in San Diego County for the Moosa 100K Alternative would be the same as for the Proposed Action. Please refer to Section 3.15.1 (Recreation for the Proposed Action) of this EIR/EIS for this background information.

Moosa Canyon Recreational Facilities

Current recreational uses within the Moosa 100K study area include an equestrian facility subleased by the County Service Area (CSA) to the Vaqueros Association, which is located on the closed Valley Center Landfill site. The equestrian facility, called Aerie Park, is primarily used for horse shows and picnics about one or two times per month between March and November. Approximately 100 to 150 persons usually attend these events. No equestrian events are held during the winter months (Johnsen, 2006). Valley Center Parks and Recreation managers are cognizant of the risks associated with placing a recreation facility at an old landfill site. As a result, use of the facility is limited and further restrictions of use would occur if exposure to hazardous material were suspected (Johnsen, 2006).

The existing Turner Reservoir is located at the southeast end of Moosa Canyon; however, public recreational uses are not provided at Turner Reservoir. There are no existing trails located in the Moosa 100K study area. There are no existing water-based recreational uses currently allowed at Turner Reservoir. The VCMWD has been working on a Master Plan which will include the introduction of recreational activity to Turner Reservoir, subject to obtaining all required regulatory permits and approvals for facility construction and recreation development.

4.15.1.2 Regulatory Setting

Refer to Section 3.15.1 (Recreation for the Proposed Action) of this EIR/EIS for regulatory information on the County's General Plan Recreation Element and Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan 2006-2011 that also applies to the Moosa 100K Alternative. Regulatory setting information for the County community planning area in which the Moosa 100K Alternative would be located is provided below.

Valley Center Community Plan

Most of the Moosa 100K study area is located within the boundaries of the Valley Center community; a small southwest portion of the Moosa Reservoir inundation area would occur within the Hidden Meadows community.

The Valley Center Community Plan describes the closest park in the vicinity of the Moosa 100K study area: “Aerie Park, located on Aerie Road, is on an abandoned 42-acre landfill which the County has leased to the Valley Center Community Services District. As such, all improvements are temporary and may be removed if the County determines in the future that the landfill is unsafe. The park is currently developed with equestrian facilities.”

Valley Center Community Trails and Pathways Plan

The Community Trails and Pathways Plan proposes a network of trails in the Moosa Canyon area. All planned trails in the vicinity of the Moosa 100K project area are designated Priority 3 trails (lowest priority).

4.15.2 Project Design Features

The Moosa 100K Alternative would include a new marina (refer to Figure 2.3-1 of this EIR/EIS). The Recreational Master Plan (RMP) for the ESP envisioned the following amenities for the Moosa Reservoir marina: a boat dock with rental boats for public use, offices for employees and rangers, a concession area, a restroom, a launch ramp, a small boathouse for repairs, approximately 130 parking spaces, and an additional day use area, which would include picnic areas, drinking fountains, playgrounds, fishing piers and a parking lot. If this alternative were chosen, an updated RMP would be developed for the Moosa 100K Alternative.

4.15.3 Direct and Indirect Effects

4.15.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

The thresholds of significance used to evaluate potential recreation impacts for the Moosa 100K Alternative are the same as those used to evaluate impacts for the Proposed Action and the SV 50K/Moosa 50K Alternative. The thresholds are based on applicable criteria in the State CEQA Guidelines (CCR §§15000-15387), Appendix G. A significant impact to recreation would occur if the Moosa 100K Alternative would:

1. Result in the direct disturbance or displacement of established recreation facilities.
2. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

3. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.15.3.2 Impact Analysis

Methodology

The recreational analysis includes a review of applicable recreational planning documents and maps. Impacts to existing recreational uses were analyzed based on the types of effects the project could have upon recreational uses within the study area for the Moosa 100K Alternative. Impacts to adjacent recreational uses were also considered in instances where the Moosa 100K Alternative construction or operation could affect the recreational use or operation of such areas.

Analysis

Threshold 1: Result in the direct disturbance or displacement of established recreation facilities

Inundation of the Moosa Reservoir would require Aerie Park equestrian facility to be closed and permanently relocated. Previous attempts to permanently relocate the facility elsewhere in Valley Center have been unsuccessful owing to the lack of feasible locations (Haskell, 1994). Therefore, impacts to the Aerie Park equestrian facility due to the Moosa 100K Alternative would be significant.

Events organized by the Vaqueros Association at Aerie Park equestrian facility include shows and picnic events. As a result of closure of Aerie Park equestrian facility, Vaqueros Association may seek to hold their events at other neighborhood or regional equestrian or recreation facilities while a replacement facility is being built, should a suitable location be found. This could generate a temporary, or potentially permanent, increase in the use of existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region. However, since Aerie Park equestrian facility currently only hosts approximately 10 to 15 events per year, substantial physical deterioration of other existing equestrian facilities would not occur. Therefore, impacts to existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region due to the closure of Aerie Park equestrian facility would be less than significant.

The Moosa 100K Alternative would involve permanent displacement of an existing recreational facility (Aerie Park equestrian facility). Therefore, impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative would be significant (Impact M/R 1).

Increased use of existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region due to permanent displacement of Aerie Park equestrian facility would be negligible. Therefore, impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative would be less than significant.

Threshold 2: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated

Neighborhood and Regional Parks

There are no neighborhoods or regional parks within the vicinity of the Moosa 100K study area (Aerie Park is an equestrian facility, see impacts discussion below). Therefore, there would be no impacts to neighborhood or regional parks due to the Moosa 100K Alternative.

Other Recreational Facilities

The Moosa 100K Alternative would create a new marina and larger lake surface than currently exists in Turner Reservoir, providing a regional benefit to recreational users upon project completion. Whereas currently fishing is not a permitted use at Turner Reservoir, the Moosa 100K Alternative would provide for fishing on the new reservoir with a new marina and launch facilities. As discussed in Threshold 1 above, the Moosa Reservoir inundation would result in the displacement and relocation of the Aerie Park equestrian facility, possibly resulting in temporary increases in the use of existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region. These increases would be very limited in scope. Therefore, physical deterioration impacts at existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region due to the closure of Aerie Park equestrian facility would be less than significant.

The Moosa 100K Alternative would not impact any existing neighborhood or regional park. Increased use of existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region due to permanent displacement of Aerie Park equestrian facility would be negligible. Therefore, impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative would be less than significant.

Threshold 3: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment

Construction of New Recreation Facilities

The RMP envisions recreational uses along the eastern edge of the Moosa Reservoir (refer to Section 4.15.2 above). Recreation facilities would be limited to this location in order to maintain compatibility with adjacent uses and the local rural setting. Construction of the new Moosa Marina would not result in additional environmental impacts that would extend outside the Moosa 100K footprint. Screening, fencing, and landscaping would buffer adjacent residences from passive use areas (i.e., picnicking, walking trails, etc.); the more active use areas would be associated with the marina, which would be located away from local residences. To minimize nuisance impacts such as noise and traffic, boating would be limited to non-motorized or low-horsepower electric motor uses, and no camping or athletic fields would be provided. Based on the estimated number of parking spaces, the reservoir would have the capacity to accommodate approximately 360 persons at any given time. Actual use of the reservoir for water recreation

activities would be limited to 132 boats. Therefore, nuisance impacts from public use of the reservoir and marina associated with the Moosa 100K Alternative would be less than significant.

If the Moosa 100K Alternative were selected by the Water Authority, the marina and other recreation facilities may be located in a slightly different location due to the difference in water level between the CSP and ESP. The ESP Recreation Master Plan (RMP) for Moosa Reservoir would be updated to reflect this change.

The Valley Center Community Plan identifies the planned Old Castle Park, just north of Old Castle Road, approximately two miles northwest of the Moosa 100K study area. The Moosa pump station and associated electrical lines would be located south of the planned Old Castle Park and could visually impact the park users. If the Moosa 100K Alternative were selected, the Water Authority would coordinate with the Valley Center Community Planning Group to reduce impacts to the planned Old Castle Park. Therefore, direct disturbance of existing or planned recreation facilities due to the Moosa 100K Alternative would be less than significant.

The Valley Center Community Plan encourages the development and improvement of recreational uses within the community planning area, as well as the provision of riding and hiking trails within parks. The RMP associated with the Moosa 100K Alternative would be consistent with the community plan goals because it would include recreational uses that have existing local demands in consideration of the rural setting and limited access of the reservoir. However, there are no plans to replace the planned (Priority 3) network of trails described in the Valley Center Community Trails and Pathways Plan. The loss of these planned trails would conflict with the recreational policies of the Valley Center Community Plan and the Valley Center Community Trails and Pathways Plan, and would be significant.

Construction or Expansion of Existing Recreation Facilities Off Site

As discussed in Threshold 1 above, Aerie Park equestrian facility would be displaced due to inundation of Moosa Reservoir. The Water Authority will coordinate replacement or relocation of the equestrian facility with the Vaqueros Association and the Valley Center County Service Area. However, it is unknown where the replacement facility would be located. Therefore, physical environmental impacts due to the replacement of Aerie Park equestrian facility could be significant.

Nuisance impacts from public use of the Moosa Reservoir and marina would be negligible, and there would be no direct disturbance of existing or planned recreation facilities, such as Old Castle Park. Therefore, impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative would be less than significant.

*There are no plans to construct a new trail system to replace the planned trail network that would be inundated by the Moosa Reservoir. Therefore, impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative would be significant (**Impact M/R 2**).*

Impacts due to potential construction or expansion of other off-site recreational facilities to replace Aerie Park equestrian facility are unknown. Therefore, impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative could be significant (Impact M/R 3).

4.15.3.3 Mitigation Measures

To reduce significant recreational impacts caused by displacement of the existing Aerie Park equestrian facility (*Impact M/R 1*), the Water Authority will implement the following mitigation measure:

M/R 1-1 Prior to commencing any activities that would result in displacement of the Aerie Park equestrian facility, the Water Authority will coordinate with the Vaqueros Association and the Valley Center CSA to identify potential relocation sites.

There are no plans to construct a new off-site trail system to replace the planned trail network that would be inundated by the construction and filling of the Moosa Reservoir (*Impact M/R 2*). In addition, the potential location of a replacement equestrian facility for Aerie Park equestrian facility is unknown, as are the associated environmental impacts (*Impact M/R 3*). There are no mitigation measures that could reduce these potential impacts.

4.15.3.4 Residual Impacts after Mitigation

No residual impacts would remain after implementation of the proposed mitigation measure for *Impact M/R 1*.

Because there are no plans to construct a new off-site trail system to replace the planned trail network that would be inundated by Moosa Reservoir, and because environmental impacts associated with a replacement facility for Aerie Park equestrian facility are unknown, *Impacts M/R 2 and M/R 3* would remain significant and unmitigable. A Statement of Overriding Considerations would be necessary for approval of the Moosa 100K Alternative.

4.15.4 Cumulative Effects

4.15.4.1 Other CIP Projects

As described in Section 4.2 (Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative) of this EIR/EIS, it was determined that Hubbard Hill Flow Regulatory Structure, North County Distribution Pipeline Flow Regulatory Structure, and Second Crossover Pipeline are the only CIP projects with the potential for cumulative impacts when combined with the Moosa 100K Alternative. The PEIR for the Regional Water Facilities Master Plan concluded that the Water Authority's projects could have cumulative significant adverse impacts on recreational resources in the region. Program-level mitigation measures included the relocation of displaced recreational facilities or restoration of disturbed recreational facilities. The above conclusions are incorporated into the cumulative analyses in Section 4.15.4.2 below.

4.15.4.2 Other Planned Projects with CIP Projects

This section evaluates the cumulative recreation impacts of the Moosa 100K Alternative when considered in conjunction with the other planned projects listed in Table 4.2-1, and incorporates the cumulative recreation impacts associated with the CIP projects described in the above section. The following cumulative recreation analysis addresses each of the three significance thresholds listed in Section 4.15.3 above.

Cumulative Threshold 1: Result in the direct disturbance or displacement of established recreation facilities

The Moosa 100K Alternative would result in the temporary displacement and relocation of the Aerie Park equestrian facility. Research of cumulative projects in the area (refer to Table 4.2-1 [Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative] of this EIR/EIS) gave no indication that these projects would impact Aerie Park equestrian facility or result in displacement of any other recreation facilities in the vicinity. However, the displacement of Aerie Park equestrian facility due to the Moosa 100K Alternative would also be considered a significant (but mitigable) cumulative impact (*Impact M/R IC*).

Cumulative Threshold 2: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated

As stated in Section 4.15.3.2 (Threshold 2), there are no neighborhoods or regional parks within the vicinity of the Moosa 100K study area, and the temporary displacement of the Aerie Park equestrian facility would result in a negligible increase in use of other existing equestrian facilities in the San Diego region. The cumulative projects in the area (refer to Table 4.2-1 [Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative] of this EIR/EIS) would increase the local population, increasing the demand for recreational facilities in the area. However, it is expected that as a part of permit approval the County would require large housing development projects to provide local recreational facilities or funding for such facilities to accommodate this population growth. As with the Moosa 100K Alternative, other Water Authority CIP projects would implement mitigation measures as needed to restore any disturbed recreational facilities. Therefore, the cumulative physical deterioration of recreational facilities due to the Moosa 100K Alternative, when combined with recreational impacts from the CIP projects listed above and other planned cumulative projects (refer to Table 4.2-1 [Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative] of this EIR/EIS), would be less than significant.

Cumulative Threshold 3: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment

Cumulative impacts on the physical environment from construction of the Moosa Reservoir Marina are incorporated into the analysis of the Moosa 100K Alternative in this EIR/EIS. As

evaluated in Section 4.15.3.2 (Threshold 3), the Moosa 100K Alternative would prevent the development of a planned trail network at the site, with no identified replacement. In addition, impacts due to potential construction or expansion of an off-site equestrian facility to replace Aerie Park equestrian facility are unknown. Although other cumulative projects in the area (refer to Table 4.2-1 [Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative] of this EIR/EIS) would not contribute to these impacts, the contribution of the Moosa 100K Alternative to these impacts would be cumulatively considerable. As discussed in Threshold 2 above, housing projects in the area would be expected to include construction of new recreational facilities or funding for such facilities to meet the needs of local residential growth, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Other Water Authority CIP projects in the area (listed in Section 4.15.4.1) would not include construction of recreational facilities, and therefore would not contribute to cumulative physical environmental impacts as a result of construction of recreational facilities. Therefore, cumulative environmental impacts from the replacement of trails (**Impact M/R 2C**) and the Aerie Park equestrian facility (**Impact M/R 3C**) due to the Moosa 100K Alternative, when combined with the impacts from new recreational facilities associated with other planned cumulative projects (refer to Table 4.2-1 [Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative] of this EIR/EIS), would be significant.

*The Moosa 100K Alternative would result in the displacement and relocation of the Aerie Park equestrian facility, but this significant cumulative impact (**Impact M/R 1C**) would be mitigated via mitigation measure M/R 1-1. The Moosa 100K Alternative would also result in cumulative impacts with respect to: (1) prohibiting the development of a planned trail network at the site, with no plans to construct off-site trail systems; and (2) unknown environmental effects associated with potential construction or expansion of an off-site equestrian facility to replace the loss of Aerie Park equestrian facility. Therefore, these cumulative recreation impacts due to the Moosa 100K Alternative, when combined with the impacts from new recreational facilities associated with the planned cumulative projects listed in Table 4.2-1 (Cumulative Projects for the Moosa 100K Alternative) of this EIR/EIS would be significant (**Impacts M/R 2C and M/R 3C**). There are no feasible mitigation measures to reduce these cumulative impacts to a level considered less than significant; therefore, a Statement of Overriding Considerations would be necessary for approval of the Moosa 100K Alternative.*