

4.18 Beneficial Effects

NEPA requires an evaluation of both the beneficial and detrimental effects of a federal action, even if on balance the lead federal agency believes that the effect will be beneficial. When determining the significance of a federal action's impact on the physical and human environment, the responsible federal official shall consider both the beneficial and adverse effects, as defined in 40 CFR 1508.8, as well as the short-term, long-term, direct and indirect effects. In accordance with these guidelines, this section evaluates the beneficial effects of the Moosa 100K Alternative. The primary beneficial effect of the Moosa 100K Alternative would be to increase the carryover storage capacity of the region, which would assist the San Diego region in meeting its water demands during periods of extended drought. As this is considered the purpose and need for the project, it is described in more detail in Chapter 2.0 (Alternatives Analyzed) of this EIR/EIS.

4.18.1 Moosa Reservoir and Marina

As described in Section 4.15 (Recreation for the Moosa 100K Alternative) of this EIR/EIS, new recreational facilities would be constructed for the Moosa 100K Alternative, including an 870-acre reservoir, and a marina along the eastern edge of the new reservoir to maintain compatibility with adjacent uses and local rural setting. The ESP Recreational Master Plan (RMP) identifies a marina including boat dock with rental boats for public use, offices for employees and rangers, a concession area, a restroom, a launch ramp, a small boat house for repairs, picnic areas, drinking fountains, playgrounds, fishing piers, and a parking lot. Up to 130 parking spaces could be provided at the marina. An additional day-use area adjacent to the marina is also identified in the RMP, which would include group picnic areas, restrooms, open play areas, boat docks, beach picnic areas, a floating fishing pier, and parking for up to 120 vehicles. If this alternative were selected, an updated RMP would be developed for the Moosa 100K Alternative. The marina facilities would be designed to provide maximum access to disabled persons in compliance with ADA requirements.

The marina for the Moosa 100K Alternative would offer a wide range of boating activities, including: sail boats, rental power boats (with 1/2-horsepower electric trolling motors), paddle boats, and canoes. Based on the estimated number of parking spaces, the reservoir could have the capacity to accommodate approximately 360 persons at any given time. Actual use of the reservoir for water recreation activities would potentially be limited to 132 boats. Boating would be restricted to daylight hours only, and no personal watercraft or water skiing would be allowed. Swimming or any other direct body contact to water would not be permitted.

The recreational facilities and marina described above would be considered a substantial amenity of the Moosa 100K Alternative, creating a new reservoir recreational experience in northern San Diego County, which would benefit the region.

4.18.2 Recreational Fishery

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. This would also be considered a substantial recreational amenity of the Moosa 100K Alternative, benefiting the San Diego region.

4.18.3 Socioeconomics

Positive economic impacts may be derived from potentially higher residential and commercial property values within areas near the new Moosa Reservoir and the associated new recreational opportunities. In addition, the regional economy would benefit from the incomes generated by a major construction project associated with the Moosa 100K Alternative, and this would indirectly benefit regional assessed values through the increase of County-wide sales. Although these fiscal benefits may not be significant, they would be substantially larger than the potential annual property tax loss of \$1,230,000 that may be generated by this alternative. Refer to Section 8.2 (Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice) of this EIR/EIS for more detailed analysis of these potential socioeconomic effects.