5.18 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 SV 50K/Moosa 50K Alternative. The primary beneficial effect of the SV 50K/Moosa 50K 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.

5.18.1 San Vicente and Moosa Reservoir Marinas

As described in Section 5.15 (Recreation for the SV 50K/Moosa 50K Alternative) of this EIR/EIS, new recreational facilities would be constructed for the SV 50K/Moosa 50K Alternative, including a new marina at both locations. The ESP Recreation Master Plan (RMP) identifies new marina facilities, including boat docks with rental boats for public use, offices for employees and rangers, concession areas, restrooms, launch ramps, picnic areas, drinking fountains, playgrounds, fishing piers, and parking lot. The marina facilities would be designed to provide maximum access to disabled persons in compliance with ADA requirements.

The marinas 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. Boating would be restricted to daylight hours only. No personal watercraft or water skiing would be allowed at the Moosa site. Swimming or any other direct body contact to water would not be permitted at either location.

The recreational facilities and marina described above would be considered a substantial amenity of the SV 50K/Moosa 50K Alternative, creating new reservoir recreational experiences in San Diego County, which would benefit the region.

5.18.2 Recreational Fishery

Whereas currently fishing is not a permitted use at Turner Reservoir, the Moosa 50K component of Alternative 3 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 Alternative 3, benefiting the San Diego region.
5.18.3 Socioeconomics

Positive economic impacts may be derived from potentially higher residential and commercial property values within areas near the expanded San Vicente Reservoir, and the new Moosa Reservoir. In addition, the regional economy would benefit from the incomes generated by a major construction project associated with the combined projects, 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 losses that may be generated by this alternative. Refer to Section 8.2.3 (Socioeconomic Analysis for Moosa 100K Alternative) of this EIR/EIS for more detailed analysis of these potential socioeconomic effects.