MINUTE ITEM
47

W 24916
J. Smith

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT (APPLICANT)

Calendar Item C47, attached, was pulled from the agenda prior to the meeting.

A 35

S 18

CALENDAR ITEM

C47

WORK ORDER: W 24916

CALENDAR DATE: March 8, 1994

NEGOTIATOR: J. Smith

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT (APPLICANT)

CALENDAR ITEM PULLED PRIOR TO COMMISSION MEETING

CALENDAR ITEM

C47

A 35

S 18

03/08/94
W 24916
J. Smith

DREDGING LEASE

APPLICANT:

Santa Barbara County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:

Submerged lands in Goleta Slough, Santa Barbara County.

LAND USE:

Dredge a maximum of 25,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Connector Channel at the confluence of San Jose, San Pedro and Atascadero Creeks with aquatic deposition in the surf zone; dredge to maintain the opening of the mouth of Goleta Slough and subsequent disposal onto the beach of a maximum of 60,000 cubic yards of sediment annually for the next five years.

TERMS OF THE PROPOSED LEASE:

Lease Period:

Five Years, beginning April 1, 1994 through March 31, 1999.

Royalty:

No royalty shall be charged as the project is for public benefit.

A royalty of at least $0.25 per cubic yard shall be charged for dredged material used for private benefit or commercial sale purposes.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:

Filing and processing costs have been received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.

B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 3, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884:
08/10/94

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. This activity involves lands which have not been identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. However, the Commission has declared that all tide and submerged lands are "significant" by nature of their public ownership (as opposed to "environmental significant"). Since such declaration of significance is not based upon the requirements and criteria of P.R.C. 6370, et seq., use classifications for such lands have not been designated. Therefore, the finding of the project's consistency with the use classification as required by 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2954 is not applicable.

2. The Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) has routinely maintained the creeks that flow through Goleta Slough. Maintenance activities involve the removal of sediment from the creeks or from silt basins on the creeks as well as maintaining an opening at the mouth of the slough. Due to many factors there are sediments constantly being deposited in each of the five creeks (Atascadero, San Jose, San Pedro, Carneros and Tecolotito) that feed the slough and withou the removal of the silt the slough would eventually fill in thus eliminating the existing marsh. Removing the sediments increases the capacity to convey flood flows, resulting in an increased tidal prism which helps keep the mouth of the slough open.

3. State sovereign (fee) interests within the project area extend from the mouth of the slough up to and including that area known as the Connector Channel, at the confluence of Atascadero, San Jose and San Pedro Creeks. Certain other areas (historic tidelands, previously patented by the State) proposed for dredging, while subject to a Public Trust easement, require no lease or permit. The project within the trust easement area does not appear to be inconsistent with public trust needs.

4. The dredging project will be conducted in three phases. Phases I and II involve the dredging of pilot channels and creation of instream sediment basins. Phase III involves ongoing maintenance as needed to maintain the sediment basins. In addition, the mouth of the slough will be opened periodically one to three times a year. This involves cutting a channel from the ocean to the slough at low tide.

5. An EIR was prepared and adopted for this project by the County of Santa Barbara. (93-EIR-4, SCH 92091039.) The State Lands Commission's staff has reviewed such document.

6. The County has also adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations, as contained in Exhibit "C", attached hereto.

7. The project has been approved by the County of Santa Barbara and the State Department of Fish and Game. Applications are pending with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Coastal Commission. Permits from those agencies are expected and should be issued by April.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

County of Santa Barbara; State Department of Fish and Game.

FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

State Lands Commission; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Water Quality Control Board; California Coastal Commission.

EXHIBITS:

A. Location Map and Site Map
B. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Directors Minute Order
C. CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

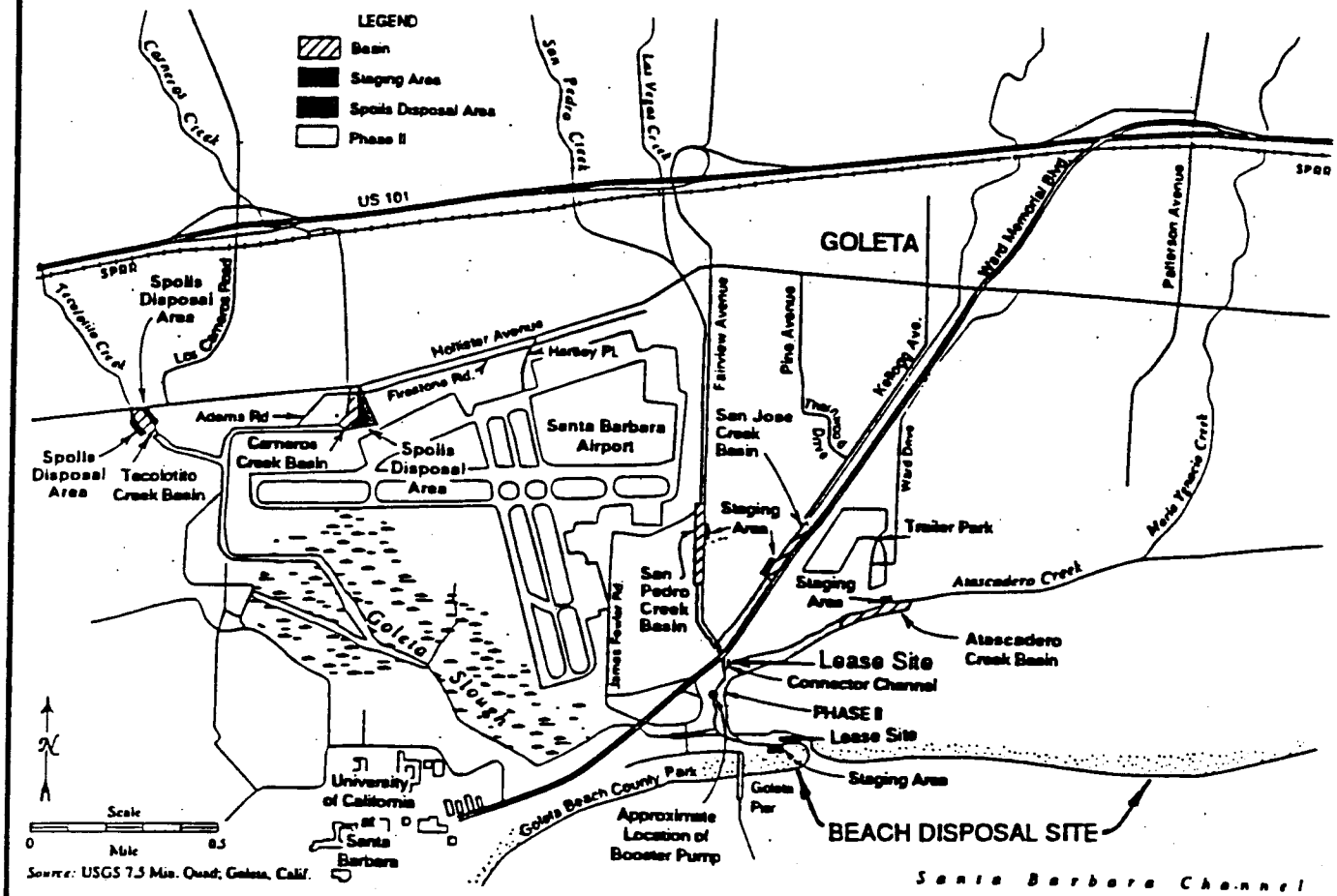
1. FIND THAT AN EIR WAS PREPARED AND CERTIFIED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

2. ADOPT THE FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF OVERIDING CONSIDERATIONS MADE IN CONFORMANCE WITH SECTION 15096(h) AND SECTION 15093 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES, AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT "B", ATTACHED HERETO.

3. ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN , AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT "C", ATTACHED HERETO.

4. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF A FIVE-YEAR DREDGING LEASE TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1994 THROUGH MARCH 31, 1999. SAID LEASE SHALL ALLOW DREDGING A MAXIMUM VOLUME OF 25,000 CUBIC YARDS OF SEDIMENT FROM THE CONNECTOR CHANNEL AT THE CONFLUENCE OF SAN JOSE, SAN PEDRO AND ATASCADERO CREEKS WITH AQUATIC DEPOSITION IN THE SURF ZONE; AND DREDGING TO MAINTAIN THE OPENING OF THE MOUTH OF GOLETA SLOUGH AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSAL ONTO THE

BEACH OF A MAXIMUM OF 60,000 CUBIC YARDS OF SEDIMENT ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. SUCH PERMITTED ACTIVITY IS CONTINGENT UPON APPLICANT'S COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PERMITS, RECOMMENDATIONS, OR LIMITATIONS ISSUED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.



LOCATION MAP

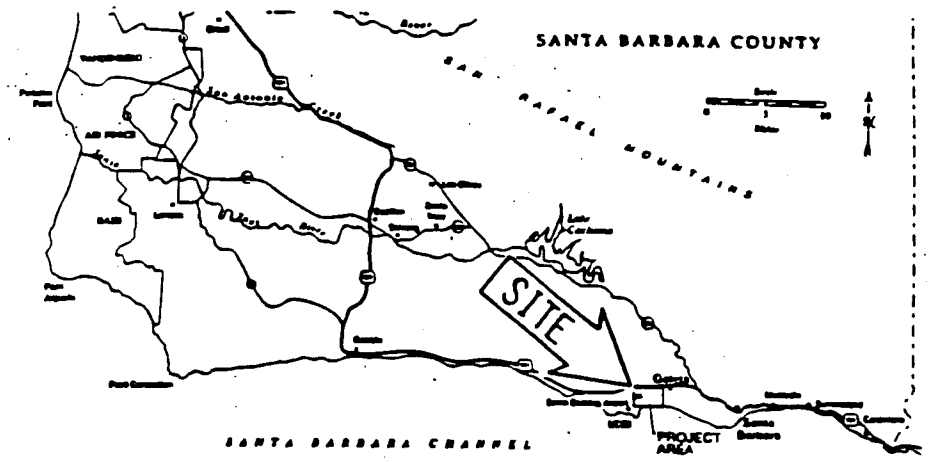


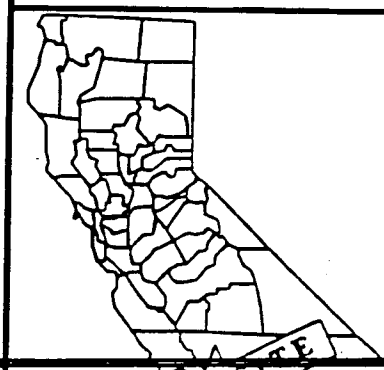
EXHIBIT "A"

W 24916

Dredging Application

Goleta Slough

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, and is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

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EXHIBIT B

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

M I N U T E O R D E R

January 4, 1994, in the a.m.

Present: Directors Timothy J. Staffel, Naomi Schwartz, Thomas A. Rogers, Willy Chamberlin and Mike Stoker; and Zandra Cholmondeley, Clerk (Allen)

Director Staffel in the Chair

RECEIVED
JAN 10 11 11 AM '94
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

RE: Hearing (Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Meeting as Board of Directors) - To consider approval of the Goleta Slough Routine Maintenance Project, Second and Third Districts, as follows: (93-18,609/94-19,099) (FROM DECEMBER 14, 1993) (EST. TIME: 15 minutes)

a) Certify that the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR), 93-EIR-4, for routine maintenance activities in the Goleta Slough has been completed in compliance with 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, and public hearing prior to approval of the project, and adopt CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations;
c) Adopt approved preferred project description and mitigation measures with corresponding monitoring requirements, as the monitoring program for the project;
d) Approve project identified as the preferred alternative in the Final Program EIR, 93-EIR-4;
e) Direct District to apply for State and Federal permits to the extent required by law.

Rogers/Chamberlin Approved a) through e) as recommended.

EXHIBIT C

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 NO_x 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_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_x emissions to 4.12/5.57 tons. Although retarding injection timing by more than two degrees would further reduce NO_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_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_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.

D. 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 NO_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_x emissions to 4.12/5.57 tons. Although retarding injection timing by more than two degrees would further reduce NO_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_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_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_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 creek: 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 OVERRIDING 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 Environmetnally 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.