

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
September 14, 2005

Victoria Touchstone, Refuge Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92011

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, San Diego County, California (CEQ #20050299)

Dear Ms. Touchstone:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The DEIS evaluates three management alternatives for the Sweetwater March Unit of the refuge. Alternative C (Implement Habitat Enhancement and Restoration and Improve Existing Public Uses) is the preferred alternative. The DEIS also evaluates four alternatives for the South San Diego Bay Unit. Alternative D (Expand Habitat Management, Enhance Nesting Opportunities, Maximize Habitat Restoration, and Provide Additional Public Use Opportunities) is the preferred alternative. EPA has no objections to the preferred alternatives and supports their habitat enhancement and restoration goals. Accordingly, we have rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) (see the enclosed "Summary of EPA Rating Definitions").

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the Final EIS is released for public review, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me or David P. Schmidt, the lead reviewer for this project. David can be reached at 415-972-3792 or schmidt.davidp@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nova Blazej, Acting Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosure:
Summary of EPA Rating Definitions