Date:
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Applicant:
San Diego County Water Authority
Contact: Halla Razak
(858) 522-6738

Applicant's Representative:
AECOM
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Project Name:
San Diego County Water Authority - Wister Sport Fishery Project, WDID No. 7A133125001

Project Location:
City or Area: Within northwestern Imperial County, California, approximately 4 miles northwest of the town of Niland. Longitude/Latitude 33.274581/-115.588354
Township/Range 10 S/13 E Section 26

Receiving Water:
The Salton Sea

Project Description:

The purpose of this proposed project, as administered through the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), is to provide requisite mitigation for the loss of fish habitat and recreational opportunities resulting from the lining of the All- American Canal and Coachella Canal. In addition to meeting mitigation requirements, a primary goal of the proposed project is the design and construction of a sports fishery pond that supports a high-quality and productive game fish population, provides quality recreational angling opportunities for the general public, and is self-sustaining with minimal future inputs or maintenance requirements.

The proposed pond is situated within an approximately 65-acre primary site and includes use of an adjacent site of approximately 35 acres for parking, trailer turn-around, boat launch, restrooms, and disposal of excavated spoils. The target fish community for the Wister Fish Pond will consist of warm water game fish species that are considered to provide a high level of angling opportunity while also consistently meeting mitigation obligations. The primary species being considered are largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, and reader sunfish.

Key considerations for the project are designing the pond and associated habitat elements to support all life stages (adult foraging, spawning, juvenile rearing) of the target game fish species and supporting a productive forage base (algal forms, macroinvertebrates, and small forage fish). Habitat elements being considered are a varied topography on the bottom of the pond, with boulder piles and gravel beds, and various edge treatments such as emergent wetland terraces and hardened areas (with cobble and gravel), and boulders and woody debris incorporated throughout.

The edge treatments will be designed and located to provide varied and complex structure in the littoral zone (nearshore area where sunlight penetrates to the sediments and allows aquatic vegetation growth), accommodate angler access, and stabilize shorelines to reduce the potential for bank erosion associated with wind-generated waves. Native tree and shrub plantings will be installed in focused patches on the pond slopes, with wetland species located near the water's edge and more mesic and upland species located further up the slope. While the pond is being designed for fish, it will also provide habitat for other species, such as waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and other wildlife.

Pond Site (Primary Construction Area)
The proposed pond construction area is divided into two primary, parallel basins oriented north to south and divided by an elevated access road. The existing pond and bank will be excavated and graded to meet the design specifications.

Excavation and Grading Disposal Area
A portion of the eastern basin within the project survey area was designated as a disposal area for the excess material that is excavated during pond construction. Each of these sites is located immediately adjacent to the proposed pond site and is described below by orientation adjacent to the proposed pond.

Pond Water Input
The project proposes to pipe canal water to the site from a small control basin located approximately 2,100 feet to the east of the project survey area. The water intake source will be supplied to the constructed Wister Fish Pond from the control basin at delivery gate 16 from the "Y" Lateral of the East Highline Canal, which is owned and operated by the Imperial Irrigation District. The water intake is located near the intersection of Davis Road and a compacted dirt service road between Beach Road and Ruddy Road. The imported water will be conveyed to a forebay pond unit located in the southeast corner of the main project site through a 24-inch-diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) culvert installed under the compacted dirt service road. The conveyance of water will be managed to use the forebay to drop sediment from source water by holding it in the forebay for a defined period of time. After the holding period, water will be released to the fishery through a second HDPE culvert connecting to the sport fishery pond. At the point of discharge (input) to the Wister Sport Fishery pond, the slopes and bottom of the pond will be protected from the outfall by a rip-rap energy dissipater.

Pond Water Depth
The maximum depth of water proposed for the Wister Sport Fishery pond is approximately 10 feet, when the water surface elevation is at its highest design depth. The proposed maximum water surface elevation for the project is 782.9 feet, and the proposed bottom of the pond at its maximum depth is 773 feet. A boat launch will be constructed in the northeast corner of the project area for use by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Spoils from excavation for the project are proposed to be placed in the vacant pond east of the project site, and a small parking area will be provided in the northeast portion of the project area. Construction of a spillway will be required to ensure that the water surface elevation of 782.9 feet is not exceeded. The Division of Safety of Dams (which is administered by the California Department of Water Resources) does not have approval authority over the type of spillway, but will require that the spillway be able to pass the maximum discharge into the pond, which is 20 cubic feet per second (cfs). A 36-inch-diameter riser pipe with a screened, domed grate has been sized

as the spillway. Under weir flow conditions, a flowrate of 20 cfs will pass through the spillway at a depth of approximately 0.75 foot.

Proposed Schedule (start-up, duration, and completion dates): June 2012 through December 2012

Action:
Pending

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