Chapter 15 Recreation

3 15.1 Summary Comparison of the Proposed Project

4 This chapter provides the results of the assessment of the incremental recreation impacts that 5 would result if the changes to the project footprint as described in Chapter 3, Project Description, are 6 constructed. The focus of this assessment is to compare the impacts on recreation previously 7 determined for the approved project with how those impacts may either increase or decrease as a 8 result of implementing the proposed changes to the water conveyance facilities. This incremental 9 analysis addresses whether the proposed project, compared with the approved project, would lead 10 to any new significant environmental effects or to any substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. The incremental difference between the original impacts 11 12 and the newly anticipated impacts are compared with the impact determinations described for the 13 approved project in the Final EIR/EIS.

The incremental impacts attributable the proposed project when compared with impacts of the
 approved project include a decrease in adverse impacts on recreation opportunities provided by
 public and private recreation facilities and a decrease in adverse impacts on recreational boating.

17 **15.2** Environmental Setting/Affected Environment

18 **15.2.1** Affected Environment

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19 The environmental setting for recreation resources that would be affected by construction and 20 operation of the proposed project is similar to what is described in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 15, 21 Recreation, Section 15.1, Environmental Setting/Affected Environment. The Final EIR/EIS provides a 22 discussion of the existing recreation opportunities and facilities in the study area, which includes 23 numerous parks, extensive public lands, and many interconnected rivers, sloughs, and other 24 waterways that offer diverse recreation opportunities. Privately owned commercial marinas and 25 resorts allow access to the waterways and a variety of other recreation opportunities and services. 26 Private lands also provide several recreation opportunities, particularly hunting. The modifications 27 to the approved project would be located entirely within the previously analyzed project area; 28 therefore, the Existing Conditions have not changed.

29 **15.3 Environmental Consequences**

This section describes the potential effects of the modifications to the approved project on
 recreation resources and opportunities. The focus of this assessment is on determining the
 incremental effects on recreation resources attributable to these modifications. With the exception
 of focusing on the incremental effects, the methods of analysis and determination of effects is the
 same as indicated in the Final EIR/EIS. These methods are also described below.

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Where mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR/EIS remain sufficient, such sufficiency is
 noted.

3 The effects of the proposed project on recreation were evaluated using the using the same methods 4 as reported in the Final EIR/EIS. These assessment methods and the steps followed for determining

5 recreation effects are included in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 15, *Recreation*.

6 **15.3.1** Effects and Mitigation Approaches

The following discussion provides the results of the assessment of the incremental impacts on
recreation that would result from the changes in the footprint of the water conveyance under the
proposed project. Some environmental impacts would not change from the conclusions for the
approved project disclosed in the Final EIR/EIS and, consequently, as such are not repeated in this
chapter. This chapter does not address impacts driven by (1) operation of the California WaterFix,
(2) implementation of Environmental Commitments, and (3) cumulative impacts.

13**15.3.1.1**No Action Alternative

14 Under the No Action Alternative, the new Byron Tract Forebay, reusable tunnel material (RTM) 15 storage, and other footprint changes described for the proposed project would not occur. For the 16 purposes of this Supplemental EIR/EIS, the No Action Alternative, against which this proposed 17 project is compared, is consistent with the No Action Alternative Early Long-Term in the Final 18 EIR/EIS. No differing effects on recreation would result along the proposed project alignment from 19 what was previously described in the No Action Alternative Early Long-Term in the Final EIR/EIS if 20 the No Action Alternative wore to occur

20 the No Action Alternative were to occur.

21 **15.3.1.2 Proposed Project**

Impact REC-1: Permanent Displacement of Existing Well-Established Public Use or Private Commercial Recreation Facility Available for Public Access as a Result of the Location of Proposed Water Conveyance Facilities

25 **NEPA Effects:** The extent of the permanent displacement of public use or private commercial 26 recreation areas located within the Delta under the proposed project would be similar but less than 27 that described for the approved project in Final EIR/EIS Section 15.3.4.2, Alternative 4A. 28 Construction of the Byron Tract Forebay under the proposed project would help reduce the impact 29 on recreation activities on and near Clifton Court Forebay's south embankment as described for the 30 approved project. The impacts on Clifton Court Forebay would be avoided because under the 31 proposed action the forebay would no longer be divided into northern and southern cells and would 32 not be extended to the south. Other potential recreation impacts along the alignment of the water 33 conveyance facility would be reduced as the DWR ponds currently used for water ski instruction and 34 hound racing would no longer be directly affected because, under the proposed project, these sites 35 would no longer be used to store RTM. As described in detail for the approved project, construction 36 of the water conveyance facilities under the proposed project would not result in an adverse effect 37 on public use or private commercial recreation facilities because none of these facilities would be 38 permanently displaced.

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1 **CEOA Conclusion:** The extent of permanent displacement of public use or private commercial 2 recreation areas under the proposed project would be the less than that discussed for the approved 3 project because, although the type and alignment of the water conveyance facilities are similar, the 4 impacts on recreation at Clifton Court Forebay would be reduced under the proposed project. The 5 proposed project would not result in the permanent displacement of well-established public use or 6 private commercial recreation facilities available for public access. This impact on these facilities 7 would be the same as that for the approved project and would be less than significant. No mitigation 8 for permanent loss is required.

9Incremental Impact: The impact on recreation associated with permanent displacement of10public use or private commercial recreation areas as a result of the proposed project would be11less than that under the approved project because impacts at Clifton Court Forebay would be12reduced. By reducing the severity of the impact on recreation opportunities at Clifton Court13Forebay, there would be a beneficial incremental change under the proposed project. The14impact under the proposed project would remain less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Result in Long-Term Reduction of Recreation Opportunities and Experiences as a Result of Constructing the Proposed Water Conveyance Facilities

- 17 **NEPA Effects:** The extent of the long-term reduction of recreation experiences within the Delta as a 18 result of construction the water conveyance facilities under the proposed project would be similar 19 to that described for the approved project. One recreation site, Cosumnes River Preserve, would be 20 located within the construction footprint and eight recreation sites or areas (Clifton Court Forebay, 21 Tower Park Marina Resort, Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Clarksburg Boat Launch, Wimpy's 22 Marina, Delta Meadows, Bullfrog Landing Marina, and Lazy M Marina) would be located within the 23 1,200- to 1,400-foot indirect impact area. The change in the footprint of the proposed project would 24 not affect the previously disclosed impacts on these facilities. Potential indirect effects on recreation 25 include loss of access, construction noise, and changes in the visual character of the area 26 surrounding the recreation sites.
- The impacts on recreation sites and or areas from the proposed project remain similar to those
 discussed for the approved project in the Final EIR/EIS Section 15.3.4.2, *Alternative 4A—Dual Conveyance with Modified Pipeline/Tunnel and Intakes 2, 3, and 5 (9,000 cfs; Operational Scenario H).*
- The change in the RTM footprint on Bouldin Island for the proposed project creates a new impact at
 one recreation site, Tower Park Marina Resort. Under the approved project, RTM would be placed
 on Bouldin Island, south of Tower Park Marina Resort and would not be within direct view of the
 Resort.
- Placement of RTM on Bouldin Island would not directly impact recreation at the Tower Park Marina
 Resort as there would be no in-water activity and the Tower Park Marina Resort does not require
 access to Bouldin Island. Negative effects on recreation from introduction of noise and light in the
 vicinity of the marina may occur however the views from the marina are not expected to change
 because the Bouldin Island levees would block views of the RTM storage areas.
- As a result of the not dredging and expanding Clifton Court Forebay impacts on recreation occurring
 at the forebay would be reduced. The proposed Byron Tract Forebay would be constructed to the
 northwest of Clifton Court Forebay and would not directly impact Clifton Court Forebay or its
 recreation opportunities. However, the new forebay would be within the 1,200- to 1,400-foot
 recreation indirect impact area. On-water recreation opportunities not associated with formal

- 1 recreation sites could be affected by the introduction of noise and light during the construction
- 2 period. The quality of recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the new forebay may be adversely 3
- affected by noise and changes in visual character.
- 4 Recreation opportunities, would not be directly adversely affected by the new Byron Tract Forebay. 5 Construction of the Byron Tract Forebay could still cause noise and visual disturbances as a result of 6 its proximity, which could deter from adjacent recreation opportunities. These disturbances are 7 anticipated to be less than those described for the approved project in the Final EIR/EIS.
- 8 Overall, the construction of water conveyance facilities under the proposed project would result in 9 less disruption to recreation opportunities than the approved project. Indirect effects on recreation 10 experiences may occur as a result of impaired access, construction noise, or negative visual effects. 11 Overall, construction and geotechnical exploration may occur year-round and last from 2.5 to 11 12 years which may result may result in a long-term reduction of recreation opportunities or 13 experiences. Mitigation Measures REC-2, BIO-75, AES-1a, AES-1b, AES-1c, AES-1d, AES-1e, AES-1f, 14 AES-1g, AES-4a, AES-4b, AES-4c, AES-4d, TRANS-1a, TRANS-1b, TRANS-1c, NOI-1a, and NOI-1b have 15 been adopted and address adverse effects on recreation resulting from introduction of noise and 16 light and the loss of access. However, due to the length of time that construction would occur and 17 the dispersed effects across the Delta, the direct and indirect effects related to temporary disruption 18 of existing recreational activities at facilities within the impact area would be adverse.
- 19 **CEQA Conclusion:** Construction of the proposed project intakes and related water conveyance facilities would result in permanent and long-term (i.e., lasting more than 2 years) impacts on well-20 21 established recreation opportunities and experiences in the project area similar to the approved 22 project because of access, noise, and visual setting disruptions that could result in loss of public use. 23 These impacts would occur year-round. The mitigation measures listed below, in combination with 24 environmental commitments, would reduce some construction-related impacts by compensating for 25 effects on wildlife habitat and species; minimizing the extent of changes to the visual setting, 26 including nighttime light sources; manage construction-related traffic; and implementing noise 27 reduction and complaint tracking measures. However, the level of impact would not be reduced to a 28 less-than-significant level because it is not certain the mitigation would reduce the level of these 29 impacts to less than significant in all the instances occurring within the entire study area. Therefore, 30 these impacts related to access, noise, and visual setting disruptions would be similar to the impacts 31 of the approved project and would be significant and unavoidable.
- 32 *Incremental Impact:* The modifications to the footprint of the water conveyance facilities under 33 the proposed project would result in indirect impacts on one additional recreation site located 34 adjacent to Bouldin Island and would reduce impacts on recreation at Clifton Court Forebay. 35 Overall, the impacts on recreation opportunities between the proposed project and the 36 approved project would be very similar and no substantial incremental change would result. 37 Mitigation measures set forth below would reduce some construction-related impacts; however, 38 the level of impact would not be reduced to a less-than-significant level and would remain 39 significant and unavoidable.
- Mitigation Measure REC-2: Provide Alternative Bank Fishing Access Sites 40
- 41 Please see Mitigation Measure REC-2 under Impact REC-2 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 15, 42 Recreation

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1 2	Mitigation Measure BIO-75: Conduct Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys and Avoid Disturbance of Nesting Birds
3 4	Please see Mitigation Measure BIO-75 under Impact BIO-75 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 12, <i>Terrestrial Biological Resources</i> .
5 6 7	Mitigation Measure AES-1a: Locate New Transmission Lines and Access Routes to Minimize the Removal of Trees and Shrubs and Pruning Needed to Accommodate New Transmission Lines and Underground Transmission Lines Where Feasible
8 9	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1a under Impact AES-3 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
10 11	Mitigation Measure AES-1b: Install Visual Barriers between Construction Work Areas and Sensitive Receptors
12 13	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1b under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
14 15	Mitigation Measure AES-1c: Develop and Implement a Spoil/Borrow and Reusable Tunnel Material Area Management Plan
16 17	Please see to Mitigation Measure AES-1c under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
18	Mitigation Measure AES-1d: Restore Barge Unloading Facility Sites Once Decommissioned
19 20	Please see to Mitigation Measure AES-1d under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
21 22	Mitigation Measure AES-1e: Apply Aesthetic Design Treatments to All Structures to the Extent Feasible
23 24	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1e under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
25 26	Mitigation Measure AES-1f: Locate Concrete Batch Plants and Fuel Stations Away from Sensitive Visual Resources and Receptors and Restore Sites upon Removal of Facilities
27 28	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1f under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
29 30	Mitigation Measure AES-1g: Implement Best Management Practices to Implement Project Landscaping Plan
31 32	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1g under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .

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1 2	Mitigation Measure AES-4a: Limit Construction Outside of Daylight Hours within 0.25 Mile of Residents at the Intakes
3 4	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-4a under Impact AES-4 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
5 6	Mitigation Measure AES-4b: Minimize Fugitive Light from Portable Sources Used for Construction
7 8	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-4b under Impact AES-4 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
9 10	Mitigation Measure AES-4c: Install Visual Barriers along Access Routes, Where Necessary, to Prevent Light Spill from Truck Headlights toward Residences
11 12	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-4c under Impact AES-4 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
13	Mitigation Measure AES-4d: Avoid the Use of Blue Rich White Light LED Lighting
14 15	Please see to Mitigation Measure AES-4d under Impact AES-4 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> , Alternative 1A, Impact AES-4.
16 17	Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a: Implement Site-Specific Construction Traffic Management Plan
18 19	Please see Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a under TRANS-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 19, <i>Transportation</i> .
20 21	Mitigation Measure TRANS-1b: Limit Hours or Amount of Construction Activity on Congested Roadway Segments
22 23	Please see Mitigation Measure TRANS-1b under Impact TRANS-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 19, <i>Transportation</i> .
24 25	Mitigation Measure TRANS-1c: Make Good Faith Efforts to Enter into Mitigation Agreements to Enhance Capacity of Congested Roadway Segments
26 27	Please see Mitigation Measure TRANS-1c under Impact TRANS-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 19, <i>Transportation</i> .
28 29	Mitigation Measure NOI-1a: Employ Noise-Reducing Construction Practices during Construction
30	Please see Mitigation Measure NOI-1a under Impact NOI-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 23, Noise.
31 32	Mitigation Measure NOI-1b: Prior to Construction, Initiate a Complaint/Response Tracking Program
33	Please see Mitigation Measure NOI-1b under Impact NOI-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 23, Noise.

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Impact REC-3: Result in Long-Term Reduction of Recreational Navigation Opportunities as a Result of Constructing the Proposed Water Conveyance Facilities

3 **NEPA Effects:** The extent of the long-term reduction in recreational navigation opportunities as a 4 result of constructing the proposed water conveyance facilities under the proposed project would be 5 similar to the approved project. Construction activities associated with constructing the proposed 6 project would have less impact than those under the approved project because the proposed project 7 would result in no reduction in recreation navigation opportunities in Clifton Court Forebay. 8 Further, the disruption of boat passage and navigation at the remaining sites would be less than the 9 approved project because two of the temporary barge unloading facilities would not be constructed. 10 Although implementing Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a and helping to fund measures to reduce 11 aquatic weeds would reduce impacts on recreational navigation, these effects would remain adverse 12 under the proposed project because of the long duration of construction which would continually 13 reduce recreation opportunities and distract from experiences occurring near construction activity.

14 **CEOA Conclusion:** Impacts on recreational navigation during construction of the water conveyance 15 facilities under the proposed project would be less than those described for the approved project as 16 a result of not modifying Clifton Court Forebay and eliminating two of the temporary barge 17 unloading facilities. Impeding boat passage and navigation and resulting impacts on recreation 18 would occur during construction of the intakes and the remaining temporary barge unloading 19 facilities. Although Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a would reduce impacts on navigation associated 20 with barge unloading facilities and participating in the aquatic weed reduction program would help 21 address impacts on navigation, the impact of constructing the water conveyance facilities would be 22 nearly the same as under the approved project and would be significant and unavoidable.

- 23Incremental Impact: The impact on recreation associated with reduction of recreational24navigation opportunities as a result of the proposed project would be less than that under the25approved project because impacts at Clifton Court Forebay would be less. Consequently, there26would be an incremental reduction in the overall severity of the impact. The mitigation measure27set forth below would reduce some construction-related impacts; however, the level of impact28would not be reduced to a less-than-significant level and would remain significant and29unavoidable.
- 30Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a: Implement Site-Specific Construction Traffic Management31Plan
- Please see Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a under Impact TRANS-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 19,
 Transportation.

Impact REC-4: Result in Long-Term Reduction of Recreational Fishing Opportunities as a Result of Constructing the Proposed Water Conveyance Facilities

36 **NEPA Effects:** The extent of changes in sport fishing opportunities occurring within the study area 37 under the proposed project would be less than those under the approved project. Construction 38 activities would continue to result in negative impacts on fish species and would occur over the 39 same construction period as under the approved project; however, direct impacts at Clifton Court 40 Forebay would be reduced under the proposed project. Although construction of the Byron Tract 41 Forebay would result in less restrictions on access to bank fishing sites at Clifton Court Forebay, 42 restrictions are expected to occur at the northwest corner of the forebay because of the close 43 proximity to active construction areas. Overall, construction of the proposed project would still

result in a long-term impact on recreational fishing opportunities. Consequently, this impact would
be significant. However, mitigation measures have been adopted to reduce impacts by enhancing
and ensuring access to nearby fishing sites and to address noise and visual disturbances. Mitigation
Measures REC-2, NOI-1a, NOI-1b, AES-1a, AES-1b AES-1c AES-1d, AES-1e, AES-1f, and AES-1g would
help reduce or avoid impacts on recreational fishing near construction sites. With implementation of
these mitigation measures, this impact would not be adverse.

7 **CEQA** Conclusion: Compared with the approved project, the proposed project would result in fewer 8 impacts on recreational fishing opportunities as a result of the construction of the Byron Tract 9 Forebay and the subsequent reduction of access to Clifton Court Forebay recreation sites. However, 10 the combined impact on recreational fishing opportunities would be significant. Implementing 11 Mitigation Measures REC-2, NOI-1a, NOI-1b, AES-1a, AES-1b AES-1c AES-1d, AES-1e, AES-1f, and 12 AES-1g would reduce the impact on recreational fishing to a less-than-significant level by providing 13 alternate fishing sites, reducing noise generated during construction activities, and limiting changes 14 in the visual character of recreational fishing sites. The impact would be nearly the same as the 15 impact of the approved project and would be less than significant after mitigation.

16Incremental Impact: The modification to the approved project would result in less impact on17recreational fishing opportunities than would result under the approved project because18impacts at Clifton Court Forebay would be less. Consequently, there would be a beneficial19incremental change in the potential for those impacts to result and in the severity of the impact.20The mitigation measures indicated below would further reduce the remaining potential impacts21on recreational fishing opportunities. With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be22less than significant.

- 23 Mitigation Measure REC-2: Provide Alternative Bank Fishing Access Sites
- 24 Please see Mitigation Measure REC-2 under Impact REC-2 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 15.
- Mitigation Measure NOI-1a: Employ Noise-Reducing Construction Practices during
 Construction
- 27 Please see Mitigation Measure NOI-1a under Impact NOI-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 23, *Noise*.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1b: Prior to Construction, Initiate a Complaint/Response Tracking Program

30 Please see Mitigation Measure NOI-1b under Impact NOI-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 23, *Noise*.

31Mitigation Measure AES-1a: Locate New Transmission Lines and Access Routes to32Minimize the Removal of Trees and Shrubs and Pruning Needed to Accommodate New33Transmission Lines and Underground Transmission Lines Where Feasible

Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1a under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17,
 Aesthetics and Visual Resources.

Mitigation Measure AES-1b: Install Visual Barriers between Construction Work Areas and Sensitive Receptors

Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1b under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17,
 Aesthetics and Visual Resources.

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1 2	Mitigation Measure AES-1c: Develop and Implement a Spoil/Borrow and Reusable Tunnel Material Area Management Plan
3 4	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1c under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
5	Mitigation Measure AES-1d: Restore Barge Unloading Facility Sites Once Decommissioned
6 7	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1d under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
8 9	Mitigation Measure AES-1e: Apply Aesthetic Design Treatments to All Structures to the Extent Feasible
10 11	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1e under Impact AES-1 in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources.</i>
12 13	Mitigation Measure AES-1f: Locate Concrete Batch Plants and Fuel Stations Away from Sensitive Visual Resources and Receptors and Restore Sites upon Removal of Facilities
14 15	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1f under AES-1in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .
16 17	Mitigation Measure AES-1g: Implement Best Management Practices to Implement Project Landscaping Plan
18 19	Please see Mitigation Measure AES-1g under AES-1 in Final EIR/EIR Chapter 17, <i>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</i> .

20 15.3.2 Cumulative Analysis

21 The analysis for cumulative effects for recreation resources remains the same as described in the 22 Final EIR/EIS with consideration of the proposed project modifications. The analysis of impacts on 23 recreation for the approved project conclude that constructing the approved project would not 24 result in significant cumulative impacts. Constructing the proposed project would be conducted in a 25 very similar fashion to the approved project. Because of these similarities, the approved project is 26 also not expected to result in any cumulative impacts on recreation. The proposed project would 27 continue to have no cumulative effect on displacement of recreational facilities, temporary 28 disruptions to recreation opportunities, recreational navigation, recreational fishing, and other 29 recreation opportunities.

30 15.4 References Cited

31 None.