

Feasibility Assessment of Conservation Measures Offsetting Water Conveyance Facilities Construction Impacts on Terrestrial Biological Resources

12D.3 Results

12D.3.2 Alternatives Evaluation

12D.3.2.5 Alternative 4—Dual Conveyance with Pipeline/Tunnel and Intakes 2, 3, and 5 (9,000 cfs; Operational Scenario H)

Natural Communities

Water conveyance facilities construction under Alternative 4 would have similar effects on terrestrial natural communities when compared to Alternative 1A (Table 12D-12). Implementation of the Conservation Strategy would restore and protect sufficient natural community acreage to mitigate for these effects in the near-term. Under Alternative 4, an area of ~~2,078,401~~ acres of Clifton Court Forebay would be dredged. Effects on terrestrial species of this in-water activity would be limited. Details are provided in Section 12.3, *Environmental Consequences*, of the [RDEIR/SDEIS](#).

The conveyance facilities construction would affect ~~5135~~ acres of managed wetlands, and restoration would cause a loss of 5,786 acres. Considering BDCP near-term protection (and enhancement), there would be a net loss of ~~2,61704~~ acres of managed wetlands in the first ten years. However, managed wetland acreage is mostly affected by restoration of tidal freshwater emergent wetland, which would increase by ~~8,8274~~ acres. As is described in [RDEIR/SDEIS](#) Section 3.2, *Environmental Consequences*, this would result in a net benefit to native species and therefore the loss of managed wetland is not considered an adverse effect and is less than significant.

Species Habitat

Implementation of the conservation strategy would restore and protect sufficient natural community acreage to mitigate for on species habitat in the near-term. Details are provided in [RDEIR/SDEIS](#) Section 12.3, *Environmental Consequences*.

Under Alternative 4, ~~4,9385,983~~ acres of non-rice cultivated lands would be lost due to construction of the water conveyance facility and 8,636 acres would be lost due to near-term restoration, resulting in an overall loss of ~~13,5744,619~~ acres in the near-term (Table 12D-12). The conservation strategy would protect and enhance 15,400 acres of cultivated lands to mitigate the effects of conveyance facilities construction and offset the effects of restoration on cultivated land in the near-term. The protected area would be ~~1,826781~~ acres larger than the area affected.

1 **Table 12D-12. Water Conveyance Facilities Construction Impacts on Natural Communities and Cultivated Lands Compared with Planned BDCP Near-Term Restoration and Protection under Alternative 4**

Alternative 4	Near-Term Impacts (acres)			BDCP Near-Term Conservation			Evaluation of BDCP Near-Term Conservation Relative to Water Conveyance Facilities Impacts						
	Conveyance Facilities Impact (acres)	Near-Term Restoration Impact (acres)	Total Near-Term Impact (acres)	Near-Term BDCP Restoration (acres)	Net Near-Term Restoration Area (acres)	Near-Term BDCP Protection (acres)	Restoration Ratio	Protection Ratio	Near-Term Restoration Requirement (acres)	Near-Term Protection Requirement (acres)	Difference of Near-Term Area Change and Restoration Requirement (acres)	Difference of Near-Term Protection and Protection Requirement (acres)	Overall Conservation Difference (acres)
Natural Community													
Tidal Perennial Aquatic ^a	227178	30	257208	3,400	3,370	0	1	0	227178	0	3,1433,192	0	3,1433,192
Tidal Freshwater Emergent Wetland	186	7	253	8,850	8,843	0	1	0	186	0	8,8257	0	8,8257
Valley/Foothill Riparian	7364	475	54839	800	325	750	1	1	7364	7364	25261	67786	929947
Grassland	65718	1,127	1,78432	1,140	1326	2,000	0	2	0	1,314236	1326	686764	699790
Alkali Seasonal Wetland Complex	2	58	60	58	0	120	1	2	2	4	-2	116	114
Vernal Pool Complex ^b (direct/indirect)	31/4135	36	67/4135	40	4	400	1	2	31	14432	-27	25668	22941
Other Natural Seasonal Wetland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Nontidal Marsh ^c	771	135	21207	400	2654	25	1	1	771	771	18893	-5246	13647
Managed Wetland	5135	5,786	5,83721	320	-5,466	2,900	0	1	0	5135	-5,466	2,84965	-2,61701
Cultivated Lands (non-rice)	4,9385,983	8,636	13,5744,619	0	-8,636	15,400	0	1	0	4,9385,983	-8,636	10,4629,417	1,826781
Cultivated Lands (rice + "rice or equivalent")	1690	834	25284	0	-834	900	0	1	0	1690	-834	731900	648816

- 2 ^a Dredging of Clifton Court Forebay (2,078+04 acres) is not included.
3 ^b Impact of restoration on vernal pool complex is based on maximum allowable loss of wetted area.
4 ^c Nontidal marsh = nontidal freshwater perennial emergent wetland + nontidal perennial aquatic.

