



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report San Jacinto Wildlife Area Land Management Plan SCH No. 2016061018

Overview: As lead agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed Land Management Plan (LMP) for the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) (proposed project). The Draft PEIR has been prepared to provide the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies with information about the potential environmental effects of implementation of the SJWA LMP.

The Draft PEIR evaluates the potential short-term (during construction) and long-term (post-construction operation/management), direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed SJWA LMP associated with new activities and those existing activities that are being expanded into areas previously undisturbed; identifies those impacts that could be significant; and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the CDFW, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft PEIR also evaluates alternatives to the proposed project, including the No Project Alternative, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft PEIR was released for public review on December 15, 2017.

Project Location: The proposed project consists of an LMP for the approximately 20,126-acre SJWA, which is managed by CDFW. The SJWA is located within Central Riverside County with a portion within unincorporated areas of the county, east of the City of Perris, and portions within the City of Moreno Valley and City of Beaumont.

Project Description: The proposed project consists of an LMP for the approximately 20,126-acre SJWA, which is managed by CDFW. CDFW has prepared the draft SJWA LMP to help guide its future planning and management operations for the SJWA. The general purpose of the SJWA is to protect and enhance habitat for plant and wildlife species and to provide the public with compatible, related recreational uses. The existing operation of the SJWA includes biological resources management and public uses, which are incorporated into the draft LMP. Biological resources that would continue to be or would newly be managed under the draft LMP include wetland habitats, riparian habitats, alkali habitats, vernal pools, waterfowl habitats, agriculture fields, Stephens' kangaroo rat habitats, and upland habitats. Current/existing public uses that would continue to be allowed and managed under the draft LMP include waterfowl and upland game hunting, bird watching, hiking, hunting dog training, horseback riding, nature study, photography, and mountain biking. The purpose of the draft LMP is to comply with Section 1019 of the California Fish and Game Code and to set forth the goals, objectives, and actions for the use and management of CDFW's lands within the SJWA. Specific objectives of the draft LMP's protection and management of lands within the SJWA, while allowing approved recreational uses, include:

- To guide the management of habitat, species, and programs described in the LMP, and achieve CDFW’s mission to protect and enhance floral and faunal values;
- To preserve and enhance biological communities in the region including grassland, sage scrub, chaparral, wetlands, and alkali scrub that protect habitat contributing to and sustaining the overall ecosystem health of the region. This habitat is necessary to support special status species, including Stephen’s kangaroo rat, least Bell’s vireo, tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, and others covered by the MSHCP;
- To maintain habitat connectivity between the SJWA and MSHCP’s core areas and linkages;
- To provide quality recreational opportunities, including hunting, wildlife observation, and hiking, for both existing and expanded activities and facilities, where compatible with biological resource protection objectives;
- To coordinate with state, federal, and local agencies, as appropriate, when implementing LMP management activities;
- To provide interpretive and educational programs for the natural diversity within the SJWA; and
- To provide an overview of the SJWA’s operation and maintenance, and personnel requirements to implement management goals. The draft LMP will also serve as a budget planning aid for annual regional budget preparation.

The SJWA LMP consists of the continued management of existing habitats, species, and programs, as well as the expansion of some of the activities currently occurring on the SJWA to achieve CDFW’s mission to protect and enhance wildlife values and guide public uses of the property. In addition, the draft LMP consists of the removal or modification of existing buildings and structures (such as the residential trailers), and the construction and eventual operation of new buildings and facilities (such as residences (trailers), office, workshop, warehouse, and restrooms). The draft LMP also involves proposed improvements to the internal circulation network (roads, parking areas, and trails) within the SJWA and improvements and construction of on-site domestic water and power systems.

Location of Documents Available for Public Review. The Draft PEIR may be viewed online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Planning/San-Jacinto-Valley-WA>. In addition, copies of the Draft PEIR and appendices on CD are available for review at the locations listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Public Repository Sites

Site	Address	Telephone
CDFW San Jacinto Wildlife Area	17050 Davis Road, Lakeview, California 92567	951.928.0580
CDFW Bermuda Dunes Office	78078 Country Club Drive, Suite 109, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203	760.200.9158
Nuview Library	29990 Lakeview Avenue, Nuevo, California 92567	951.928.0769
San Jacinto Library	500 Idyllwild Drive, San Jacinto, California 92583	951.654.8635
Moreno Valley Public Library	25480 Alessandro Boulevard, Moreno Valley, California 92553	951.413.3880
Perris Branch Library	163 E San Jacinto Avenue, Perris, California 92570	951.657.2358
Beaumont Library District	125 E 8th Street, Beaumont, California 92223	951.845.1357

Note: *Reference documents cited in the EIR are available on CD at these locations.

Public Comment Period: By this notice CDFW is announcing the opening of the 45-day comment period (December 15, 2017 to January 29, 2018). All written comments must be received in writing by January 29, 2018, by 5:00 p.m. (end of the 45-day public review period). Please send all comments via mail to Eddy Konno, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bermuda Dunes Office, 78078 Country Club Drive, Suite 109, Bermuda Dunes, California 92203; OR via email to SanJacintoWLM@wildlife.ca.gov (subject line: “**SJWA LMP Draft PEIR Comments**”).