

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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TH8



Staff: JC  
 Staff Report: 6/20/96 39558SRL  
 Hearing Date: 7/11/96  
 Commission Action:

STAFF REPORT: CONDITION COMPLIANCE

APPLICATION NO.: 3-95-58 Commission Action: 8/9/95,  
 Approved with Conditions

APPLICANT: MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY (MCWRA)  
 AGENT: Hiram Houck

PROJECT LOCATION: Salinas River Lagoon at Old Salinas River Channel, Monterey  
 County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Replace deteriorated 48-inch dia. corrugated metal culvert structure with a five-by-five foot concrete box culvert, fitted with a steel slidegate and double weir

CONDITION COMPLIANCE

Special Condition 4 of Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 3-95-58, Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan

4. Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency shall submit to the Coastal Commission for review and approval the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan by January 1, 1996.

The MCWRA shall fulfill the mitigation measures of the certified Negative Declaration (March 9, 1995) to cooperate and participate in water quality and sediment studies, to initiate environmental review of breaching of the Salinas River sandbar, and to coordinate the new data with the SRLMEP and processing.

SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS: Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan, Habitat Restoration Group, October 1992; CEQA Negative Declaration July 1994; related Coastal Development Permit 3-95-58 MCWRA Slidegate/culvert; 3-95-74 MCWRA Dredge Old Salinas River Channel; 3-95-71 MCWRA Salinas River Lagoon Bank Stabilization; North Monterey County Land Use Plan.

LOCAL APPROVALS: MCWRA Board of Directors, February 9, 1996.  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors, March 19, 1996

EXHIBITS: Exhibit 1 - North Monterey County LUP Map  
Exhibit 2 - Property Ownership Map  
Exhibit 3 - Commission's Post Certification Map  
Exhibit 4 - SRLMEP Proposed Access Plan  
Exhibit 5 - MCWRA Salinas River Lagoon Slidegate/Culvert  
Negative Declaration Mitigation letter  
Exhibit 6 - MCWRA SRLMEP submittal letter/summarized SRLMEP policies.

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

As a mechanism to settle the environmental and legal issues that resulted from the unregulated flood breaching of the Salinas River sandbar and unpermitted riverbank dumping and dredging, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in May of 1989 requested the establishment of a task force. The Task Force was made up of Federal, State and local agencies including Commission representation as well as private property owners to develop a plan, the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan (SRLMEP), for the preservation of agriculture in the lower Salinas River watershed and the protection of environmental resources in and near the Salinas River Lagoon. See Exhibit 4 attached.

Following a series of storms the Salinas River was altered and changed course in 1910 creating an alternate rivermouth at its present location. The entrance to the Old Salinas River (OSR) Channel was diked by farmers and today water enters the OSR channel through a slidegate. When river flows are low, e.g., in the summer, a sand berm builds across the river mouth and a lagoon forms behind the berm. The culvert from the lagoon to the Old Salinas River channel has been used to manage the lagoon level and coordinate it with flood breaching. The study area for the SRLMEP includes the main Salinas River channel, public trust lands of the State of California, the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge, the Salinas River State Beach and portions of several agricultural parcels along the river. The SRLMEP found that a key to improving the lagoon environment was to minimize flood breaches and to control the lagoon water level by the use of the slidegate culvert to allow water from the lagoon to discharge to the Old Salinas River. Agricultural lands border parts of the lagoon area and the water level management plan was also to assure that agricultural lands were not flooded.

The technical data for the management of the Salinas River Lagoon and its associated wetlands in conjunction with flood control protection for adjacent agricultural lands is divided into five major areas: Hydrology/Breaching, Vegetation and Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Resources, Water Quality, and Public Access; and resulted in 27 major recommendations. The task of the SRLMEP was to maximize the enhancement and restoration of the Salinas River Lagoon and its environs and protect the adjacent agricultural lands. Most policies are self

explanatory and provide for protection, enhancement and restoration of resources in conjunction with managed public access. They protect environmentally sensitive habitat (Coastal Act (CA) Section 30240) and the quality and productivity of the marine environment (CA 30230-31) by, among others, managing predator population, controlling access, managing erosion, building nesting areas, restoring, monitoring and maintaining habitat. They provide for public access consistent with the Coastal Access policies. Implementation falls largely within the responsibilities of the USFWS and California State Parks.

The questions of water quality, water levels, and breaching have not been finally established by this Phase I of the plan pending additional studies to be undertaken by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

As discussed in the following findings management of water levels in the lagoon, water quality, and breaching of the rivermouth, key elements of the Plan, will be managed under interim planning criteria, pending the results of additional data collection and monitoring required either as part of the policies of the plan (Recommendation 4) or pursuant to condition 4 of Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 3-95-58 quoted above. This balance of information will need to be submitted for review and approval of the Commission as Phase II.

The staff recommends the Commission approve the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan as submitted.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following resolution:

##### I. Approval

The Commission hereby approves Phase 1 of the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan submitted in compliance with condition 4 of Coastal Development Permit 3-95-58 on the grounds that as further conditioned by Coastal Permit 3-95-58 and pursuant to the mitigation measures of the adopted Negative Declaration for the slidegate culvert (SCH 94063067), the Plan will be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976. Phase II of the SRLMEP which will fulfill the balance of condition 4 of CDP 3-95-58 and implement the mitigation measures of the Negative Declaration will be submitted for Commission review and approval by January 1999. The SRLMEP, Phase I, as so approved will not prejudice the ability of Monterey County, the local government having jurisdiction over the area, to implement a Local Coastal Program for the North Monterey County segment conforming to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, is located between the sea and the first public road nearest the shoreline and is in conformance with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and will not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act.

## II. Findings and Declarations.

The Commission hereby finds and declares:

### 1. BACKGROUND: SALINAS RIVER LAGOON MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN (SRLMEP)

#### Jurisdiction

The Study Area falls almost entirely within the Commission's original jurisdiction (see Exhibit 3 attached) and, hence, the standard of review for the SRLMEP is the Coastal Act. However, the certified Local Coastal Program for North Monterey County reflects the Coastal Act policies and provides additional guidance and is referenced throughout the staff report.

The SRLMEP is a comprehensive planning document. The SRLMEP was approved by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in March 1996. The document is more than 150 pages long with several additional technical studies as appendices. (The full text is on file at Commission offices and available for public review.) The SRLMEP includes several procedural types of policies and implementation measures, some of which will require additional actions under the jurisdiction of the Commission either through its permit or federal consistency processes. For example, engineering and reconstruction of levees will require individual coastal permits. In another case, two major SRLMEP recommendations have already been approved by the Commission: a lagoon slidegate culvert which has already been constructed but operates under discharge limitations pending further findings on pollution/sedimentation (CDP 3-95-58) and restoration of a portion of the lagoon bank which is expected to be under construction this summer (CDP 3-95-71). Other SRLMEP recommendations require no action by the Commission, e.g., "reduce hunting activity within sensitive areas on USFWS property" because they are not defined as "development" under the Coastal Act.

#### Hydrology/Historical Context

The Salinas River watershed is approximately 150 miles long and averages 20-40 miles in width. Situated between the Santa Lucia and Diablo mountain ranges, it drains 4,231 square miles, making it one of the larger California river systems. The lower Salinas Valley contains some of Coastal California's most productive agricultural lands. The hydrologic regime has been modified by the construction of two major and one minor reservoirs. Nacimiento Reservoir (constructed on the Nacimiento River, a major tributary) was completed in 1956; San Antonio Reservoir, damming a second major tributary, was completed in 1965. A third, smaller dam (Salinas Dam and Santa Margarita Reservoir) was built in 1941.

The local hydrologic elements include the Salinas River channel and lagoon, the Old Salinas River channel (between the lagoon and Moss Landing Harbor), Tembladero Slough, Moss Landing Harbor, and Monterey Bay. In addition, two wastewater treatment plants and the Blanco agricultural drain have significantly influenced the low-flow conditions in the River in recent years.

Historically, the Salinas River joined with the mouth of Elkhorn Slough and emptied into Monterey Bay north of Moss Landing. Following a series of storms in 1909-1910 the main river changed course, creating a river mouth at its present location (see Exhibit 2). The main river channel was subsequently diked by farmers. The entrance to the Old Salinas River (OSR) Channel is blocked by a levee (CDP 3-95-71) and water enters the Old Salinas River channel through a slidegate. When river flows are low, e.g. in the summer, a sand berm builds across the river mouth and a lagoon forms behind the berm. Agricultural land borders parts of the lagoon area. Since 1909 when the river changed course and the original channel was diked, artificial breaching of the berm has been used to discharge most of the flow to the bay. Prior to human intervention, the Lower Salinas River and Lagoon was a freshwater system which extended north of the existing Moss Landing Harbor. A reach of the river 5-7 miles long was a tidally influenced, fresh and brackish water marsh. The system experienced higher volumes and higher quality of inflows. During the past 100 years, the river has been increasingly managed for agricultural drainage, irrigation, and flood protection. The lagoon now receives inflow from agricultural drainage water or occasional river flows when upstream reservoirs cannot store excess flood waters.

#### Establishment of the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan Task Force.

High water levels in the lagoon during spring and summer can cause flooding of adjacent cropland. As a result, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency has historically breached the sandbar between the ocean and the Salinas River Lagoon to prevent flooding of surrounding land. In recent decades, the culvert and gate to the Old Salinas River have been used to control dry season and pre-breach water elevations. When the first major flows of the wet season occur, and a lagoon breach is imminent, the MCWRA closes the gate to raise the water levels in the lagoon to about 5 feet. If there are sufficient flows in the river system, the river mouth will often breach naturally. However, if no natural breach occurs then a breach is cut by the MCWRA. The additional "hydraulic head" produced from allowing the water levels to rise assists in producing a deeper, more effective breach, which is less likely to be immediately closed by ocean waves.

The unregulated breaching of the sandbar at the river mouth and unpermitted dumping and dredging over the years by the Water Resources Agency and private landowners resulted in adverse impacts to lagoon water quality conditions and habitat for fish and wildlife. As a mechanism to settle the environmental and legal issues that resulted, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in May of 1989 requested the establishment of a task force. The Task Force was made up of Federal, State and local agencies including Commission representation as well as private property owners to develop a plan, the Salinas River Lagoon Management

and Enhancement Plan (SRLMEP), for the preservation of agriculture in the lower Salinas River watershed and the protection of environmental resources in and near the Salinas River Lagoon.

The certified North Monterey County Land Use Plan portion of the Monterey County Local Coastal Program (LCP) provides for protection of the plant and wildlife values of all wetland areas, for development of a comprehensive natural resource and water basin management plan for North County and for wetland management plans for the sloughs and estuarine areas. The Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan, funded in large part by the State Coastal Conservancy, is a component of this larger planning effort providing both implementation of the certified LCP but also cooperative interagency solutions to long standing resource management issues.

The Plan identified both historical and existing conditions related to hydrology, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, water quality and public access and recommends actions for flood control (rivermouth breaching, levee repair and maintenance, and slidegate reconstruction) environmental enhancement, restoration and public access. The task of the SRLMEP was to maximize the enhancement and restoration of the Salinas River Lagoon and its environs and protect the adjacent agricultural lands.

A key tool to lagoon management was control of the water level to achieve the least disruption of the natural environment by the use of the slidegate culvert to the Old Salinas River in conjunction with managed breaching of the rivermouth.

**Condition 4 of CDP 3-95-58 Slidegate/Culvert and the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan.**

Lagoon water levels can be controlled through managed breaching of the sand berm at the rivermouth and managed water discharge from the lagoon to the Old Salinas River. Management can minimize impacts on the lagoon habitats and prevent flooding of adjacent agricultural lands. Previously, water from the Salinas River Lagoon entered the Old Salinas River Channel (OSR) through a deteriorated 48-inch culvert where it meets the Salinas River. Coastal Development Permit 3-95-58 approved a 5 ft. by 5 ft. concrete box culvert, fitted with a steel slidegate and double weir to replace the structure. The new slidegate/culvert as a mechanism for management of water levels in the Lagoon is one major component (recommendation 2) of the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan (SRLMEP). To assure the coordination of the slidegate discharge with the other management proposals, the permit was conditioned to require submittal of the SRLMEP.

Special Condition 4 of CDP 3-95-58 states:

4. Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency shall submit to the Coastal Commission for review and

approval the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan by January 1, 1996.

The MCWRA shall fulfill the mitigation measures of the certified Negative Declaration (March 9, 1995) to cooperate and participate in water quality and sediment studies, to initiate environmental review of breaching of the Salinas River sandbar, and to coordinate the new data with the SRLMEP and processing.

[The submittal of the SRLMEP did not meet the January 1, 1996 Commission submittal requirement because of processing through both the Water Resources Agency and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. The Assistant District Director authorized an administrative time extension to provide for maximum public involvement at the local level. The SRLMEP was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 19, 1996 and submitted to the Coastal Commission on May 17, 1996.]

As discussed in the following findings management of water levels in the lagoon and breaching of the rivermouth, key elements of the Plan, will be managed under interim planning criteria, pending the results of additional data collection and monitoring required either as part of the policies of the plan or as part of condition 4 of CDP 3-95-58. Water quality information will also be integrated into the Plan. The resulting modifications to the SRLMEP shall be submitted for review and approval of the Commission as Phase II.

## 2. SRLMEP STUDY AREA RESOURCES AND SURROUNDING AGRICULTURAL USES

### Salinas River Lagoon Natural Resource Values

The study area for the SRLMEP includes the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge, Salinas River State Beach and on a portion of the river/lagoon's banks a corridor of wetland, riparian, and levee areas of several large agricultural properties. Significant portions of the study area fall within the public trust of the State of California and are within the Commission's original jurisdiction. See Exhibit 2 attached.

As documented in the SRLMEP, the Salinas River Lagoon area is habitat to a great variety of wildlife species, is of regional significance, and is part of the Pacific Coast Flyway. Numerous species of fish and wildlife occur in the vicinity of the lagoon, including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The lagoon area vegetation is comprised of several plant communities: central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, central coast riparian scrub, ruderal, northern foredunes, central dune scrub, northern coastal salt marsh, and coastal brackish marsh. Other habitats of the lagoon area include freshwater aquatic, freshwater marsh, beach, littoral, and upland terrestrial habitats. There are 276 species of vertebrates in the SRLMEP area. Though little systematic sampling of fish populations has been undertaken, one sampling in August 1990 collected 320 fish of 9 species including starry flounder, threespine stickleback, prickly

sculpin et al. The Tidewater goby, a federally listed endangered species, was formerly a resident fish but has not been found in recent years.

### Agricultural Resources

Large parcels under agricultural production abutt the northern banks of the lagoon and both sides of the bank upstream. Agriculture is integral to Monterey County and has contributed significantly to its economic growth for over a century. The farmlands are identified in the certified North Monterey County Land Use Plan as Agricultural Preservation with a 40-acre minimum.

### 3. COASTAL ACT AND LCP POLICIES

The technical data for the management of the Salinas River Lagoon and its associated wetlands in conjunction with flood control protection for adjacent agricultural lands divided into five major areas: Hydrology/Breaching, Vegetation and Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Resources, Water Quality, and Public Access.

The following policies of the Coastal Act and of the certified Local Coastal Program address these issues except that Access policies are discussed in Finding 6.

#### Agriculture

Section 30241 of the Coastal Act states that "the maximum amount of prime agricultural land shall be maintained in agricultural production to assure the protection of the areas agricultural economy."

Section 30253 provides in part that new development shall (1) Minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazard, and (2) Assure stability and structural integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs.

The Agricultural Preservation policy of the LUP states:

Preservation of agricultural land for exclusive agricultural use is required. The designation is applied to the prime and productive agricultural lands...Major importance is given to the preservation of large, continuous areas of agricultural land capable of long term productivity in order to protect its viability from encroaching conflicting land uses...

The LUP provides for preservation of the surrounding agricultural lands to the fullest extent possible with the protection of sensitive habitats. Policy B.3 states the following activities shall



be prohibited within intermittent and perennial stream channels: cultivated agriculture, pesticide applications, and installation of septic systems...

### Natural Resources

The key Coastal Act and LCP policies that address the protection of wetlands, streams and rivers, riparian corridors, and marine and land resources are:

Section 30236 of the Coastal Act states:

Channelizations, dams, or other substantial alterations of rivers and streams shall incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible, and be limited to (1) necessary water supply projects, (2) flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the flood plain is feasible and where such protection is necessary for public safety or to protect existing development, or (3) developments where the primary function is the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.

The North Monterey County segment Land Use Plan (LUP) certified by the Commission in June 1982 designates the Salinas River Lagoon as Resource Conservation, Wetlands and Coastal Strand. The LUP (p.69) describes this land use category as follows:

Protection of sensitive resources, plant communities, and animal habitats is emphasized. This land use is applied to wetlands, dunes, and riparian corridors under the Wetlands and Coastal Strand Category, and to sensitive forest and upland habitats... Only very low intensity uses and supporting facilities compatible with protection of the resource are allowed. Uses would include low intensity recreation, education, and research, and where no feasible alternative exists, essential public utility lines outside of Elkhorn Slough... In appropriate wetland areas, aquaculture would also be encouraged. Agricultural uses which would destroy or disrupt the habitat area not allowed.

Monterey County Land Use Plan Policy B.2. under Riparian, Wetland, and Aquatic Habitats (p.15) requires that:

All development, including dredging, filling, and grading within stream corridors, shall be limited to activities necessary for flood control purposes, water supply projects, improvement of fish and wildlife habitat or... These activities shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimize impacts from increased runoff, sedimentation, biochemical degradation, or thermal pollution. When such activities require removal of riparian plant species, revegetation with native plants shall be required.

Marine resources are protected by several policies of the Coastal Act.

Section 30230 states:

Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes.

Section 30231 states:

The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored through, among other means, minimizing adverse effects of waste water discharges and entrainment, controlling runoff, preventing depletion of ground water supplies and substantial interference with surface water flow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural streams.

Section 30233 of the Coastal Act states in part:

(a) The diking filling or dredging of open coastal waters, wetlands, estuaries and lakes shall be permitted in accordance with other applicable provisions of this division, where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative, and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to the following:

(5) Incidental public service purposes, including but not limited to, burying cables and pipes or inspection of piers and maintenance of existing intake and outfall lines.

(7) Restoration purposes.

(8) Nature study, aquaculture, or similar resource dependent activities.

(c) In addition to the other provisions of this section, diking, filling or dredging in existing estuaries and wetlands shall maintain or enhance the functional capacity of the wetland or estuary.

Section 30240 states:

(a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.

(b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.

#### 4. SRLMEP HYDROLOGY, BREACHING, WATER QUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Hydrology and Breaching recommendations call for minimizing the number of breaches by maintaining a higher water level in the Lagoon and maximizing use of the Old Salinas River slidegate to divert water down the Old Salinas River in conjunction with preventing flooding of adjacent agricultural lands.

##### Current Breaching Criteria

The MCWRA currently operates under Interim Breaching Criteria. The agency notifies the Coastal Commission, Department of Fish and Game, California Parks and Recreation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Monterey County when they are preparing for breaching. They prepare for breaching when flows reach 500 cfs (cubic feet/second) upriver at Spreckels; when high water levels in the lagoon coincide with forecast of continuous flows to the lagoon; or when the ALERT network reports a flood warning. When flows are less than 1200 cfs breaching can be avoided by discharging up to 240 cfs by slidegate to the Old Salinas River Channel. When the lagoon reaches 6 feet NGVD, the slidegate is closed and rivermouth breached. For flows greater than 1200 cfs the culvert cannot be used and the rivermouth is breached at 5 feet. After the berm rebuilds in spring/summer, the lagoon water elevation is maintained at 2 feet NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum: approximately mean sea level) by using the slidegate. A followup Coastal emergency permit is processed. The completion of the SRLMEP was expected to institute a long term policy and the issuance of a long term breaching permit.

##### SRLMEP Breaching and Water Level Management

However, the Hydrology and Breaching policies approved by the Board of Supervisors will alter the regime but will not yet establish a fixed plan. The policies are (numbered according to SRLMEP):

1. Accommodate higher winter lagoon water elevations, with breaching to occur based on maximum winter lagoon elevations between 4 and 5 feet.
2. Replace existing outflow structure to the Old Salinas River with a new culvert/gate system and operate in accordance with the Salinas River Mouth Breaching [Criteria].
3. Install a water level monitoring gage.

4. Lagoon water management: Minimize number of short duration breaches by maximizing flow to Old Salinas River Channel when dredged to a capacity of 250 cfs, summer target elevation of 2.0 ft. NGVD, winter maximum elevation of 4 ft. or 5 ft. NGVD, reduce Salinas River flow at Spreckels that triggers breaching to 800 cfs instead of 1200 cfs, Task Force to reevaluate in Spring of 1998.

The technical studies for the SRLMEP had recommended that breaching occur at winter elevation of 5 to 6 ft. NGVD and that breaching begin when the flow is 1200 cfs at Spreckels. The final proposal is for 4 to 5 feet NGVD and 800 cfs subject to a reevaluation in the Spring of 1998. The Task Force has agreed that because of changes in the river due to the floods of 1995 further review was needed to assure that farmland would be protected while maximizing resource protection.

The slidegate has been constructed (Recommendation 2) and the water guage installed (Recommendation 3). However, the slidegate cannot be operated as recommended in the SRLMEP. In response to comments by Moss Landing Harbor District, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and downstream farmers on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration (March 9, 1995) for the slidegate/culvert project, the MCWRA adopted an interim operating procedure as a mitigation measure. For an interim operating period the new weir on the upstream side of the new culvert is to be set to provide an opening the same size as the existing 48" culvert so as not to increase sediment or contaminate flow in the Old Salinas River and Moss Landing Harbor. To add to the complications, the Old Salinas River Channel was filled with sediment from the March 1995 flood. The Commission issued a coastal permit (3-95-74) on May 1, 1996 to dredge the channel but work has not begun and any discharge from the main river system to the OSR could flood the fields.

The adopted CEQA mitigations also stated that during the interim operating period MCWRA would undertake two additional actions. "The Agency will be involved in several studies to assess water and sediment quality and contaminant mobilization in area waterways, including the Salinas River Lagoon and Old Salinas River. Recommendations from these on-going studies may include remediation, clean-up or other hydrologic management techniques. MCWRA would also conduct an environmental review pursuant to CEQA and NEPA of the proposed breaching process at the Salinas River Lagoon mouth in order to apply for State and Federal (USACOE) permits. Results and recommendations of water quality studies may be incorporated into the environmental review process. Once these actions are complete and have been reviewed by interested parties, MCWRA may alter flows through the new slidegate/culvert in accordance with recommendations in the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan, or may adopt another flow regime as indicated by the above studies and public input." (pursuant to Negative Declaration for the Slidegate/Culvert. See Exhibit 4 attached, letter MCWRA letter March 9, 1995).

SRLMEP Water Quality

The Water Quality recommendations are (numbered according to SRLMEP):

19. Monitor and establish baseline salinity levels in the Old Salinas River, (a 1-2 year monitoring program should be sufficient, given normal precipitation) in order to operate the proposed double weir at the Old Salinas River culvert to siphon salt water from the bottom to enhance the freshwater fisheries habitat in the lagoon, without increasing salinity levels in the Old Salinas River Channel, and have Task Force review monitoring and operation.
22. Establish a sediment and water quality monitoring program for the lagoon.
23. Encourage the Task Force participation in the Water Quality Protection Plan planning process currently underway by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
26. Operation of the double weir/slide gate culverts shall not increase flooding or water salinity levels along the Old Salinas River Channel. Monitoring of water salinity levels in the Old Salinas River Channel will be initiated immediately after construction.

A second water quality issue over fish passage and salinity levels in the Lagoon was raised as a concern by the Department of Fish and Game who required in their Section 1601 Stream Alteration Agreement for the slidegate that no downstream sluiceway be installed without written authorization from the Department. This is the equivalent of maintaining the existing maximum discharge of 120 cfs under the interim operating proposal once the sediment is removed from the Old Salinas River channel. The Department found that early manipulation of the salinity levels could impact both fresh and salt water fish population and manipulation of salinity levels could also affect chemical specification of pollutants present in the lagoon system. The Department (personal communication, Deborah Johnson, 6/19/96) said that the approved recommendations did not reflect concerns expressed by the DFG at the final Task Force meeting. The conditions of CDP 3-95-58 MCWRA for the slidegate culvert currently do not allow more than 120 cfs discharge without a permit from the Commission and require any revisions of the Department of Fish and Game 1601 Agreement to be reviewed by the Executive Director in writing. Since any change in salinity levels is prevented by the conditions of CDP 3-95-58 without both DFG and Commission approval, final clarification of this issue can be undertaken as part of the process of determining water quality issues subject to review under Phase II.

#### Summary Discussion:

The SRLMEP does not definitely address all of the topics. However, many components are ready for implementation or have been implemented. It can be expected that in response to the dynamics of the river system and improved or new information that the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan will be an evolving document. The Plan itself, coastal permit conditions and CEQA mitigation measures for the slidegate culvert project provide for

the integration of modified policies resulting from additional studies and monitoring into the SLRMEP as a second phase.

Aspects of the SRLMEP and/or other documents related to lagoon management that need further work are:

1. The SRLMEP river breaching criteria is inconsistent with the existing Interim Breaching Criteria. Pursuant to Negative Declaration for the Slidegate/Culvert the breaching process will require an environmental review under CEQA and a coastal permit pursuant to the Coastal Act. The Task Force must reevaluate the SRLMEP breaching criteria in Spring 1998 according to Recommendation 4. The final breaching criteria will be part of Phase II package to be submitted no later than January 1999.
2. The slidegate/culvert cannot operate until the Old Salinas River Channel is dredged. The Coastal Development Permit is already approved. Implementation responsibility: MCWRA.
3. The slidegate cannot operate beyond 120 cfs capacity until water quality and sedimentation studies can assure no significant downstream impacts pursuant to the Negative Declaration for the Slidegate/Culvert and the conditions of Coastal Development Permit 3-95-58. This limitation is also subject to the Department of Fish and Game 1601 Agreement and the amendment to CDP 3-95-58. The water quality studies results and proposed modifications to the SRLMEP shall be submitted as part of Phase II.

The flow regime proposed under the SLRMEP will allow for the maintenance of the existing "functional capacity" of the wetland (Section 30233 (c)). However, the analysis and recommendations of the SRLMEP make it clear that the current regime is not the least environmentally damaging alternative (Section 30233(a)) in the long term.. Only comprehensive management of the lagoon water level including breaching criteria and variability in the release of flow down the Old Salinas River could meet this strict Coastal Act standard. The SLRMEP provides the best interim strategy for water level control pending completion of Phase II. The slidegate culvert is part of the first phase of the process. The second phase will be completed after the Monterey County Water Resources Agency has completed water quality studies, review of river flows and water levels, and has reported the results with proposals for modifying, or not, the operation of the culvert and water elevation levels. CEQA review will be undertaken as required and permits for the breaching and water level management will occur as part of the second phase.

The Commission will evaluate whether the proposed strategy meets the test of the "environmentally least damaging alternative" at that time.

The SRLMEP sets criteria of what can be considered in part a "flood control project", a development permitted under the Coastal Act Section 30236 when necessary to protect existing development. The protection of existing agricultural land has a high priority under

Coastal Act Section 30241 and Section 30253 requires that development minimize risks to life and property in areas of flood hazard. The proposed policies provide for protection against flooding and on this basis are consistent with these policies of the Coastal Act.

#### 5. SRLMEP VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES RECOMMENDATIONS

The planning area for the SRLMEP is in large part the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge. As discussed in Finding 2 above significant natural resources are present and the Refuge and adjacent wetland and riparian areas are an environmentally sensitive habitat protected by Coastal Act Marine Resource policies and the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat policies.

The SRLMEP Vegetation, Wildlife, and Fisheries recommendations are (numbered per SRLMEP document):

5. Encourage the concept of voluntary riparian enhancement measures downstream and upstream of the Highway 1 bridge.
6. Encourage the concept of implementing a long-term program to voluntarily enhance riparian habitat within the study area.
7. Implement immediate enhancement/management measures within northern fore-dunes and dune scrub.
8. Engineer, reconstruct, re-vegetate, or maintain, where necessary, the rip-rap/concreted north bank slopes, considering resource values, flood protection, and bank erosion concerns as feasible and as permitted.
9. Monitor the Monterey slender-flowered gilia population on public property without restricting access to the preferred and alternate breaching locations. Any monitoring on private property must be by voluntary participation by private property owners.
10. Implement habitat enhancement on a portion of the USFWS refuge.
11. Reduce hunting activity within sensitive areas on USFWS property.
12. Maintain or improve the quality of Smith's Blue Butterfly habitat on public property in the study area without restricting access to the area designated as the preferred and alternate breaching location. Any maintenance or improvement on private property must be by voluntary participation by private property owners.
13. Control public recreational use to avoid impacting wildlife use patterns and degradation of sensitive species habitat in the vicinity of the river mouth.
14. Manage the pond of the USFWS refuge to maintain existing high wildlife values, while allowing natural processes of succession to proceed.
15. Encourage management of boating activities to protect sensitive species in the lagoon.
16. Control red fox populations in the study area and vicinity, and/or control fox predation of nesting water birds.

17. Protect snowy plover habitat on public property in the study area without restricting access to the area designated as the preferred and alternate breaching location. Protection on private property must be by voluntary participation by private property owners.
18. Install and maintain bird nest boxes and bat roost boxes in the riparian habitat of the study area, on public lands and on private property only with voluntary participation by private property owners.
20. Evaluate the potential to reintroduce native freshwater species to the lagoon system, and enhance conditions for the maintenance of a Sacramento blackfish/Sacramento perch community.
21. Evaluate the potential to reintroduce tidewater goby (threatened status) into the Salinas River Lagoon.

These policies are in large part self explanatory and provide for protection, enhancement and restoration of resources. They protect environmentally sensitive habitat (Coastal Act Section (CA) 30240) and the quality and productivity of the marine environment (CA 30230-31) by, among others, managing predator population, controlling access, managing erosion, building nesting areas, restoring, monitoring and maintaining habitat. Implementation falls largely within the responsibilities of the USFWS and California State Parks.

At the request of the agricultural interests the SRLMEP explicitly states the voluntary nature of the policy directives relative to private property and the SRLMEP. Though policies such as the riparian enhancement optimally would be undertaken on private as well as public properties, the SRLMEP itself will have no regulatory power over this implementation.

Policy 17 states that protection of the snowy plover (listed as a threatened species by the Federal government and designated as a species of special concern by the California Department of Fish and Game) on private property must be by voluntary participation of the private property owners. It should be made clear that the Commission's approval of this policy cannot and does not intend to take exception to the regulatory requirements of the U. S. Endangered Species Act or any other state or federal law including the Coastal Act.

Policy 8 requires further analysis. The properties involved in this recommendation are those of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and Sea Mist Farms. Prior to 1983 the flood control levees bordering the northeast side of the Salinas River Lagoon and portions of the Old Salinas River Channel were unarmored, earthen fill. Unpermitted placement of concrete rubble and other materials was undertaken by the MCWRA and agricultural operations in response to potential flooding. The restoration of these levees was a key recommendation of the SRLMEP. The Coastal Commission has approved a levee and bank stabilization project (CDP 3-95-71) for the MCWRA levee which removes fill and debris, replaces the wetland, and restores the slopes with native vegetation. The project is expected to be completed this summer. Restoration of the Sea Mist levee, provided for in the earlier iterations of the SRLMEP, were put on hold according to the SRLMEP and the issue has not been resolved. Policy 8 of the SRLMEP has been revised several times at the request of the agricultural interests. As



previously stated for the record by Commission staff the Commission does not concede its authority under its permit jurisdiction or under legal proceedings to require bank stabilization, wetland restoration, riparian enhancement or other measures as required to provide for consistency with the Coastal Act either under recommendation 8 or any other recommendation in the SRLMEP.

With the preceding understandings, the Vegetation and Wildlife recommendations can be found consistent with the Coastal Act Marine Resource and Land Resource policies cited in Finding 3 above.

## 6. SRLMEP PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES

The SRLMEP Public Access policy states:

24. Develop a public use, interpretive program and public access plan for the public properties within the study area, and access private lands only with voluntary agreements with private property owners.

The SRLMEP provides a preliminary trail plan which maps a single loop trail to channel public use and minimize disturbance of wildlife and habitat. Boardwalks span dunes and wetland areas and signing interprets and guides users; several viewing areas are provided. The trail will be located on the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge and provides access to the Salinas River State Beach. An important planning goal of the access plan is to prevent impacts on the wildlife.

Coastal Act policies provide for maximizing public access (30210), protecting existing access (30211) and protecting, encouraging and providing, when feasible, lower cost recreational facilities (30213). The proposed access policy and its preliminary plan is consistent with the access provisions of the Coastal Act and is consistent with protection of the marine and land habitat resources pursuant to Sections 30240 and 30230-1.

## 7. OTHER POLICIES

25. *Recognize the ability of property owners to make necessary and permitted improvements.*
27. An interagency/Property Owners' Management Committee will be formed and meet on a regular basis to implement recommendations in the Management Plan.

Policy 25 was added at the request of the farmers at the Board of Supervisors hearing. The Commission notes that any improvements which meet the Coastal Act definition of development (including dredging, disposal and dumping) require a Coastal Permit (Coastal Act

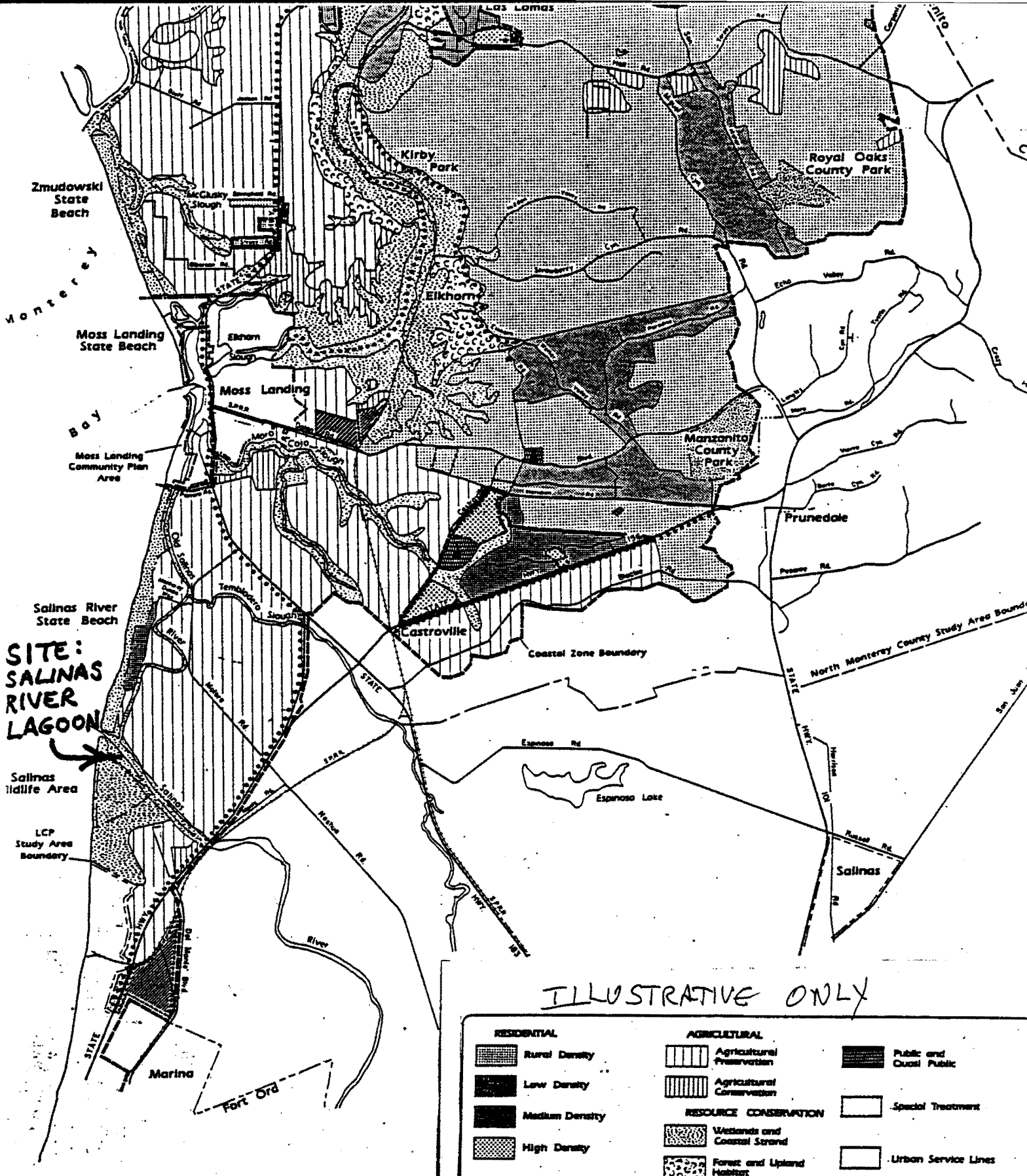
Section 30106). The policy acknowledges that improvements must be "permitted"; it is, therefore, consistent with the Coastal Act. See also discussion on Policy 8, page 16.

Successful enhancement requires the coordinated implementation of all of the recommendations together; to that end the final Recommendation 27 of the SRLMEP establishes an Interagency Management Committee and calls for meetings of the entire Task Force annually or semiannually to assure achievement of the goals of the Management Plan. The Interagency/Property Owners Management Committee provides the important followup needed for management of a dynamic system such as the Salinas River Lagoon and will serve as a useful conduit for coordinating and facilitating the subsequent phase or phases of the Plan and processing of any permits needed for future developments.

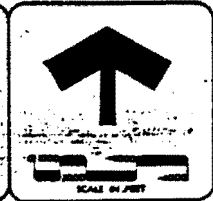
#### 8. CEQA/LCP

The certified North County segment of the Monterey County Local Coastal Program provides for protection of the plant and wildlife values of all wetland areas, for development of a comprehensive natural resource and water basin management plan for North County and for wetland management plans for the sloughs and estuarine areas. The Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan (SRLMEP), funded in large part by the State Coastal Conservancy, is a component of this larger planning effort. Specific policies of the LCP are described in the preceding findings.

A mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors concurrent with the adoption of the SRLMEP. Additional CEQA review will be necessary for implementation of some of the recommendations. In accordance with the SRLMEP on file with the Commission, as clarified in the findings of this staff report, the proposed Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan will conform with Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976; and will not prejudice the ability of the local government to implement a Local Coastal Program that conforms to Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act of 1976.



**NORTH COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**  
**LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM**  
 FIGURE 1  
**PROPOSED LAND USE**



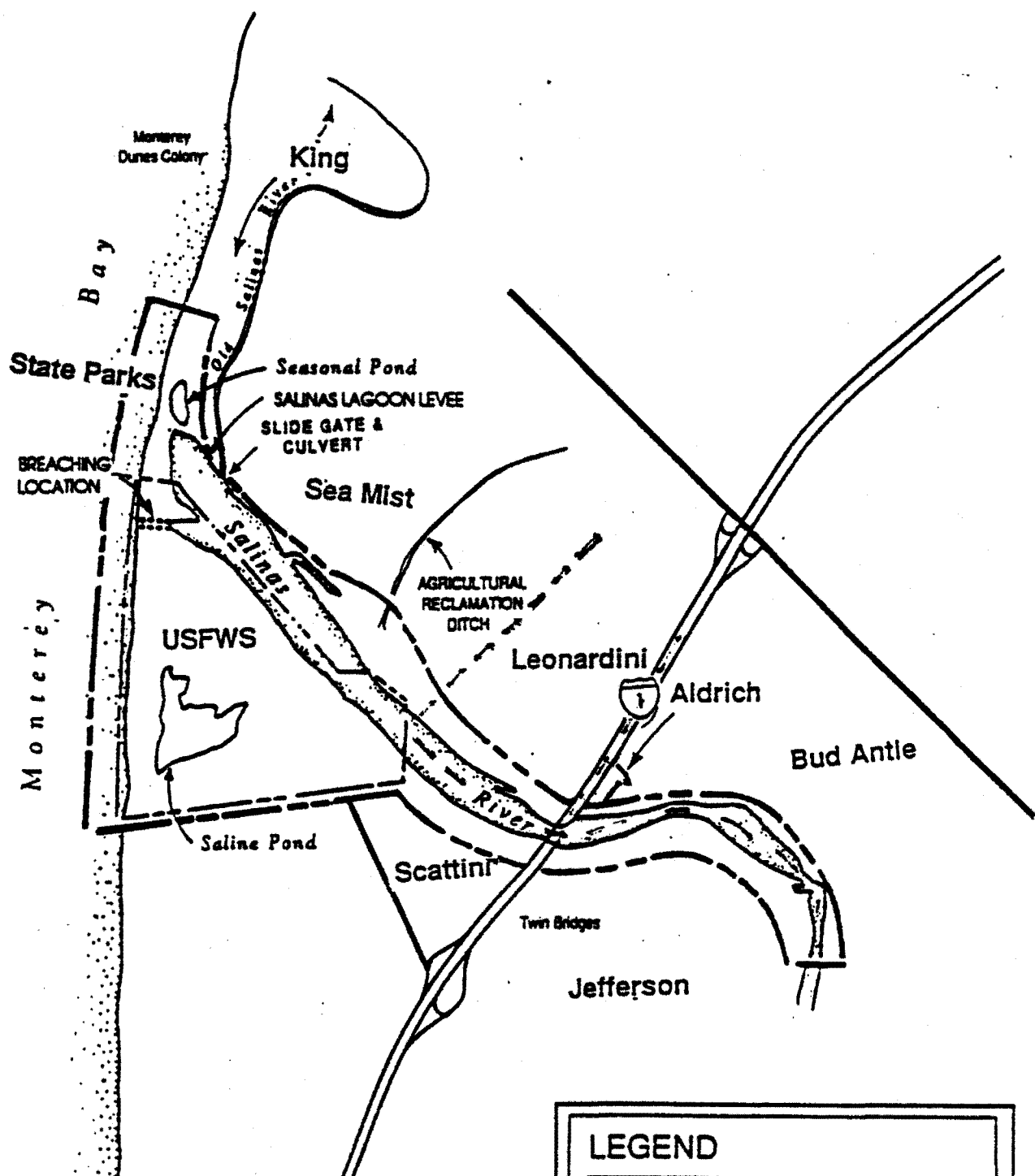
**ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY**

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>AGRICULTURAL</b>	<b>PUBLIC AND QUASI PUBLIC</b>
Rural Density	Agricultural Preservation	Public and Quasi Public
Low Density	Agricultural Conservation	Special Treatment
Medium Density	<b>RESOURCE CONSERVATION</b>	Urban Service Lines
High Density	Wetlands and Coastal Strand	Scenic Corridor
General Commercial <small>*General Location</small>	Forest and Upland Habitat	School
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>	<b>RECREATIONAL</b>	
Light	Scenic and Natural Resource Recreation	
Heavy	Outdoor Recreation	
	Golf Course	



3-95-58

LOCATION

EXHIBIT 1



NOTE: State Lands Commission claims jurisdiction over open water and historic marsh areas on Old Salinas River, Salinas River Lagoon, and Monterey Bay below mean high tide.

LEGEND	
	Study Area Boundary
	National Wildlife Refuge

Not to Scale

<p>The Habitat Restoration Group JOHN STANLEY &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC.</p> <hr/> <p>Philip Williams &amp; Associates, Ltd.</p> <hr/> <p>Wetlands Research, Inc.</p>	<p>SALINAS RIVER LAGOON ENHANCEMENT PLAN Salinas River Lagoon Study Area</p>	<p>Fig. 2 9/92 362-06</p>
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3-95-58

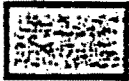
Post LCP Certification  
 Permit and Appeal Jurisdiction

County of Monterey



Permit Jurisdiction

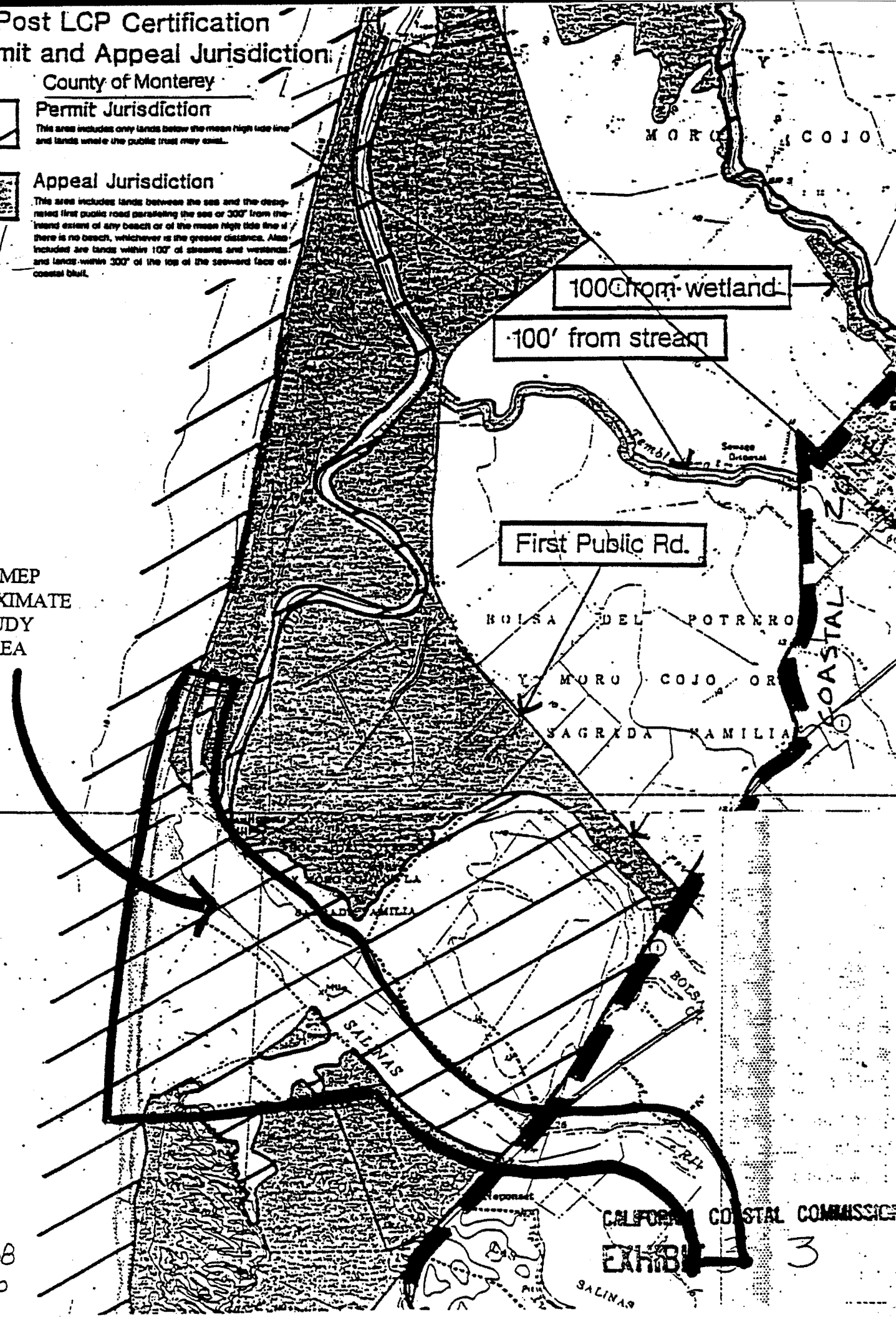
This area includes only lands below the mean high tide line and lands where the public trust may exist.



Appeal Jurisdiction

This area includes lands between the sea and the designated first public road paralleling the sea or 300' from the inland extent of any beach or of the mean high tide line if there is no beach, whichever is the greater distance. Also included are lands within 100' of streams and wetlands and lands within 300' of the top of the seaward face of coastal bluff.

SRLMEP  
 APPROXIMATE  
 STUDY  
 AREA












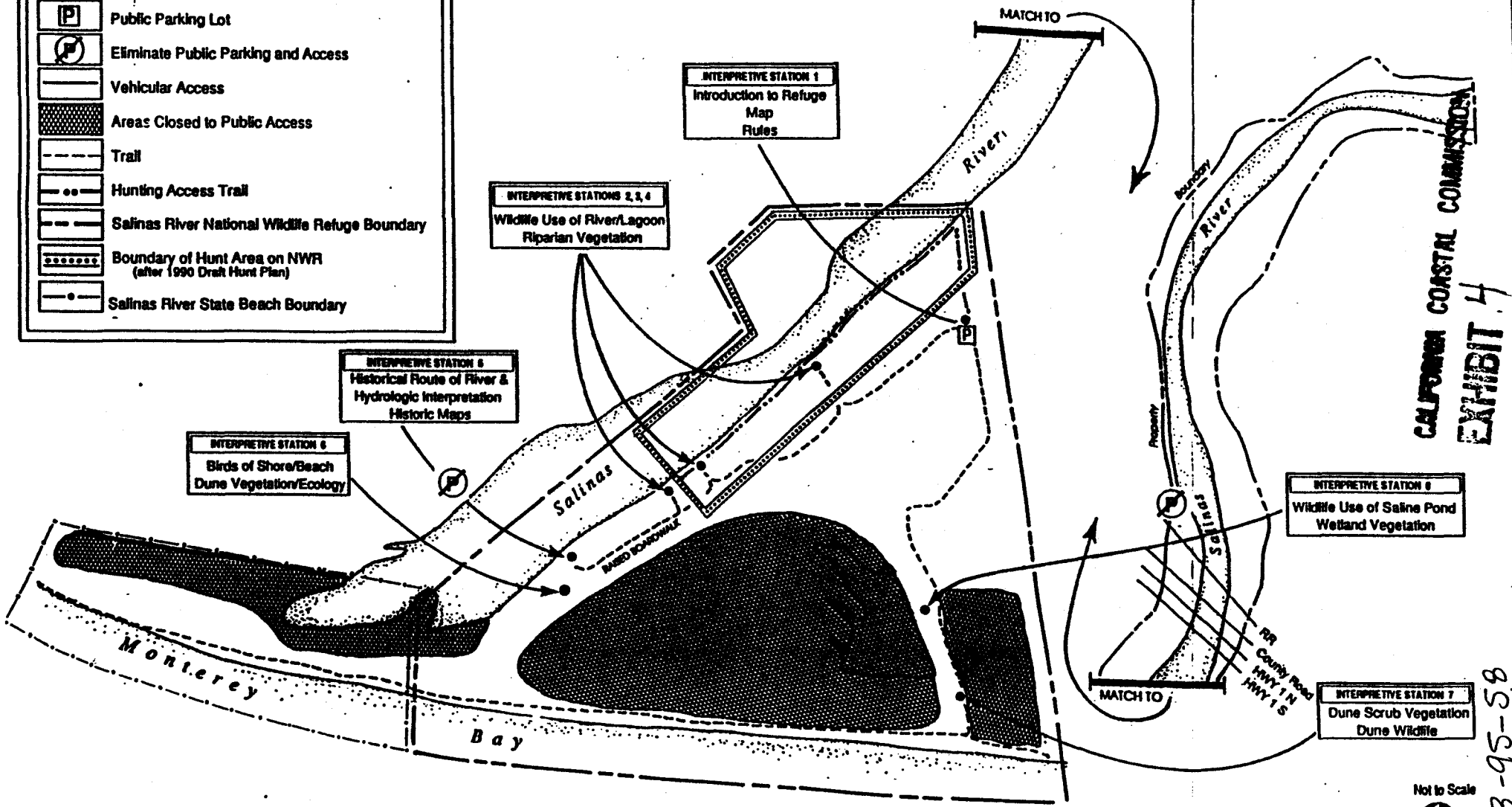
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT 3

95-58  
 RLMEP

**LEGEND**

-  Public Parking Lot
-  Eliminate Public Parking and Access
-  Vehicular Access
-  Areas Closed to Public Access
-  Trail
-  Hunting Access Trail
-  Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary
-  Boundary of Hunt Area on NWR (after 1990 Draft Hunt Plan)
-  Salinas River State Beach Boundary



**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**  
**EXHIBIT 4**

The Habitat Restoration Group  
 JOHN STANLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd.  
 Wetlands Research, Inc.

**SALINAS RIVER LAGOON ENHANCEMENT PLAN**  
**Public Access and Environmental Interpretation Plan**

Fig. 13  
 9/92  
 362-06

# MONTEREY COUNTY



## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

855 E. LAUREL DRIVE (BLDG. G)  
SALINAS, CA 93905  
(408) 755-4860  
TELEFAX (408) 424-7935

MICHAEL D. ARMSTRONG  
GENERAL MANAGER

March 9, 1995

MAILING ADDRESS  
PO BOX 930  
SALINAS, CA 93902-0930

### RE: Salinas River Lagoon Culvert/Slidegate Environmental Review

To Whom It May Concern:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) has prepared an Initial Study and Negative Declaration on the above-referenced project. The Initial Study and Intent to issue a Negative Declaration was circulated to affected agencies and interested public for a 30-day review and comment period beginning 6/20/94. This comment period ended on 7/20/94.

Five letters (Attachment A) were received from public agencies and a private research institute. Responses to these letters are included as Attachment B.

MCWRA has reviewed these comments and has determined, due to concerns expressed regarding the breaching process and mobilization of contaminants, that it will alter the culvert/slidegate design slightly to allow the new structure to release the same flows as are being released from the old structure for an interim operating period. The new weir on the upstream side of the new culvert will be set to provide an opening the same size as the existing 48" culvert.

During this interim operating period MCWRA will undertake two additional actions. The Agency will be involved in several studies to assess water quality and contaminant mobilization in area waterways, including the Salinas River Lagoon and Old Salinas River. Recommendations from these on-going studies may include remediation, clean-up or other hydrologic management techniques. MCWRA will also conduct an environmental review on our proposed breaching process at the Salinas River Lagoon mouth. Results and recommendations of water quality studies may be incorporated into the environmental review process. Once these actions are complete and have been reviewed by interested parties, MCWRA may alter flows through the new slidegate/culvert in accordance with recommendations in the Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan, or may adopt another flow regime as indicated by the above studies and public input.

3-95-58  
SRLMEP

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

EXHIBIT 5

With the adoption of these additional mitigation measures, MCWRA has finalized a Negative Declaration for this project.

Sincerely,



Joe Madruga  
Chief Engineer  
Operations and Maintenance

Attachments:

- A Correspondence from RWQCB, 7/11/94; California Coastal Commission, 7/15/94; Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, 7/22/94; Moss Landing Harbor District, 7/22/94; AMBAG, 7/15/94
- B Responses to comments received
- C Negative Declaration

PK:ps  
WP6PKSalRiLa

3-95-58  
SRLMEP

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION  
EXHIBIT 5



# MONTEREY COUNTY

## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY



893 BLANCO CIRCLE  
SALINAS, CA 93901-4455  
(408) 755-4860  
TELEFAX (408) 424-7935

MICHAEL D. ARMSTRONG  
GENERAL MANAGER

MAILING ADDRESS  
PO BOX 930  
SALINAS, CA 93902-0930

May 16, 1996

Tami Grove, Executive Officer  
Coastal Commission - Central Coast Area  
725 Front Street, Suite 300  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Ms. Grove:

Staff from this Agency presented the Board of Supervisors for Monterey County with the recommendations for the Salinas River Lagoon Management Plan at a public hearing on March 19, 1996. These recommendations were mailed out on March 14, 1996, to the Management Plan Task Force.

The Board of Supervisors made minor changes to the recommendations and directed Staff to present the revised recommendations to the California Coastal Commission. Enclosed with this letter are those new recommendations submitted for your approval. We have been working with Les Strnad and Joy Chase of your staff on this subject.

Please direct any calls on this matter to Hiram Houck at (408) 755-4874.

Yours truly,

Hiram Houck  
Water Resource Engineer II

cc: (see next page)

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION  
EXHIBIT 6

## ATTACHMENT A

# Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the revised recommendations of the Salinas River Lagoon Management Plan Task Force from their meeting of February 9, 1996. Revisions were made to the previous recommendations of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors from February 27, 1995. Text that was added by the Task Force is in *italics*, and text that has been deleted from the Board of Directors' recommendations is in ~~strikeout~~.

1. Accommodate higher winter lagoon water elevations, *with breaching to occur based on maximum winter lagoon elevations between 4 and 5 feet.*
2. Replace existing outflow structure to the Old Salinas River with a new culvert/gate system and operate in accordance with the Salinas River Mouth Breaching.
3. Install a water level monitoring gage.
4. Lagoon water management: minimize number of short duration breaches *by maximizing flow to Old Salinas River Channel when dredged to a capacity of 250 cfs, summer target elevation of 2.0 ft. NGVD, winter maximum elevation of 5ft. Or 6 ft. 4 ft. or 5 ft. NGVD, reduce Salinas River flow at Spreckels that triggers breaching to 800 cfs instead of 1200 cfs, Task Force to reevaluate in Spring of 1998.*
5. *Encourage the concept of* ~~Implement immediate~~ voluntary riparian enhancement measures downstream and upstream of the Highway 1 bridge.
6. *Encourage the concept of implementing* ~~Implement~~ a long-term program to voluntarily enhance riparian habitat within the study area.
7. Implement immediate enhancement/management measures within northern fore-dunes and dune scrub.
8. Engineer, reconstruct, re-vegetate, or maintain, where necessary, *on the rip-rap/concreted north bank slopes, considering resource values, flood protection, and bank erosion concerns as feasible and as permitted.*
9. Monitor the Monterey slender-flowered gilia population *on public property without restricting access to* ~~except in the area designated as~~ the preferred and alternate breaching locations. *Any monitoring on private property must be by voluntary written agreements by private property owners.*

March 19, 1996

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

EXHIBIT 6

1

10. Implement habitat enhancement on a portion of the USFWS refuge.
11. Reduce hunting activity within sensitive areas on USFWS property ~~and adjacent lagoon areas.~~
12. Maintain or improve the quality of Smith's Blue Butterfly habitat *on public property* in the study area ~~except in~~ *without restricting access to* the area designated as the preferred and alternate breaching location. *Any maintenance or improvement on private property must be by voluntary written agreements by private property owners.*
13. Control public recreational use to avoid impacting wildlife use patterns and degradation of sensitive species habitat in the vicinity of the river mouth.
14. Manage the pond of the USFWS refuge to maintain existing high wildlife values, while allowing natural processes of succession to proceed.
15. ~~Restrict public boating access to~~ *Encourage management of boating activities to protect sensitive species in the lagoon.*
16. Control red fox populations in the study area and vicinity, and/or control fox predation of nesting water birds.
17. Protect snowy plover habitat on public property in the study area ~~except in~~ *without restricting access to* the area designated as the preferred and alternate breaching location. *Protection on private property must be by voluntary written agreements by private property owners.*
18. ~~(Deleted by Task Force)~~ Install and maintain bird nest boxes and bat roost boxes in the riparian habitat of the study area, *on public lands and free-standing on poles in open habitats on private property only with voluntary written agreements by private property owners.*
19. *Monitor and establish baseline salinity levels in the Old Salinas River, (a 1-2 year monitoring program should be sufficient, given normal precipitation) in order to operate the proposed double weir at the Old Salinas River culvert to siphon salt water from the bottom in order to enhance the freshwater fisheries habitat in the lagoon, without increasing salinity levels in the Old Salinas River Channel, and have Task Force review monitoring and operation.*
20. *Evaluate the potential to reintroduce native freshwater species to the lagoon system, and enhance conditions for the maintenance of a Sacramento blackfish/Sacramento perch community.*
21. *Evaluate the potential to reintroduce tidewater goby (threatened status) into the Salinas River Lagoon.*
22. Establish a sediment and water quality monitoring program for the lagoon.

March 19, 1996

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION 2

EXHIBIT 6

23. ~~Non-chemical alternatives to pest management should be explored.~~ *Encourage the Task Force participation in the Water Quality Protection Plan planning process currently underway by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.*
24. *Develop a public use, interpretive program and public access plan for the ~~study area~~ public properties within the study area, and access private lands only with voluntary written agreements with private property owners.*
25. ~~Public access to the lagoon shall be across public lands or public easements.~~ *Recognize the ability of property owners to make necessary and permitted improvements.*
26. Operation of the double weir/slide gate culverts shall not increase flooding or water salinity levels along the Old Salinas River Channel. Monitoring of water salinity levels in the Old Salinas River Channel will be initiated immediately after construction.
27. An Interagency/Property Owners' Management Committee will be formed and meet on a regular basis to implement recommendations in the Management Plan.

March 19, 1996

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION<sup>3</sup>  
EXHIBIT 6

## ATTACHMENT B\*

### Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan Recommendations Summary, Schedule, and Implementation

\*The Recommendations are abbreviated and summarized. For the full text, see Attachment A of this document.

Recommendation	Schedule	Implementation
1. Accommodate higher Winter elevations, between 4 and 5 feet	1-10 Years	MCWRA, Landowners, Coastal Conservancy
2. Operate new culvert/gate system and operate in accordance with the Breaching Plan	Upon approval of the resources agencies	MCWRA
3. Install a water level monitoring gage	Completed	MCWRA
4. Minimize short duration breaches by using OSR Channel when dredged	Winter '96/'97	MCWRA
5. Encourage riparian enhancement measures by Hwy. 1 Bridge	1-5 years	CCC, RCD, Task Force
6. Encourage program to enhance riparian habitat within study area	Continue Indefinitely	CCC, Task Force, Landowners
7. Implement enhancement/mgmt. measures within fore-dunes and dune scrub.	1-5 years	CCC, DPR, USFWS
8. Maintain permitted facilities where necessary, on north bank slopes	Continuous	MCWRA
9. Monitor the Monterey slender-flowered gilia population on public property	Continued monitoring	DPR
10. Implement habitat enhancement on a portion of the USFWS refuge	Continue for 5 years	USFWS
11. Reduce hunting activity within sensitive areas on USFWS property	Continuous	USFWS
12. Maintain the quality of Smith's Blue Butterfly habitat on public property	5 years	USFWS
13. Control public recreational use to avoid impacting wildlife	Continuous	USFWS
14. Manage the pond on the USFWS refuge to maintain wildlife values	Continuous	USFWS

March 19, 1996

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

**EXHIBIT 6**

1

Recommendation	Schedule	Implementation
15. Encourage mgmt. of boating activities to protect sensitive species	Continuous	USFWS
16. Control red fox populations	Indefinitely	USFWS
17. Protect snowy plover habitat on public property in the study area	Indefinitely	USFWS
18. Install bird nest boxes and bat roost boxes on public properties	1 year	USFWS
19. Establish salinity levels in the OSR to operate double weir	1 year	MCWRA
20. Evaluate the potential to reintroduce freshwater species, enhance for Sacto. Blackfish / Perch	6 months	DFG, USFWS
21. Evaluate the potential to reintroduce tidewater goby	6 months	DFG, USFWS
22. Establish sediment and water quality monitoring program	6 months to 10 years	AMBAG, RWQCB, Task Force
23. Encourage Participation in the Water Quality Protection Plan by the MBNMS	2 years	MCWRA, RWQCB, Task Force, MBNMS
24. Develop a public use and access plan on public properties	1-10 years	Task Force
25. Recognize the ability of property owners to make necessary and permitted improvements.	Continuous	DFG
26. Operation of culvert shall not increase flooding or excess salinity	6 months	MCWRA
27. Form Interagency/Property Owner's Management Committee	1 year	MCWRA, USFWS, DPR, Task Force, Landowners, CCC

Abbreviations:

MCWRA - Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
 USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
 DPR - Department of Parks and Recreation  
 CCC - California Coastal Conservancy  
 AMBAG - Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

March 19, 1996

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION  
 EXHIBIT 6

**MBNMS** - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
**RWQCB** - Regional Water Quality Control Board  
**RCD** - Resource Conservation District  
**DFG** - Department of Fish and Game

March 19, 1996

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION** 3  
**EXHIBIT 6**

