Preferred Alternative Proposal

Advisory Committee
March 27, 2007

Agenda

◆ Formation of the Preferred Alternative Proposal
◆ Description of the Preferred Alternative Proposal
  ◆ Preferred Alternative Proposal Components
  ◆ Sizes and Comparisons
  ◆ Phasing Assumptions
  ◆ Schedule
  ◆ Costs
Steps for Selecting a Preferred Alternative

- **Process Working Group** develops a process to recommend the Preferred Alternative
- **Public, agencies, and stakeholders** provide comments on the Draft PEIR
- **Advisory Committee** recommends a Preferred Alternative to the Secretary for Resources
- **Secretary for Resources** recommends a Preferred Alternative to the Legislature
- **Legislature** selects a Preferred Alternative

Formation of the Preferred Alternative Proposal

- **Legislative Objectives**
- **Advisory Committee process** for identifying a Preferred Alternative
- **Public Comments**
Legislative Goals and Objectives

To provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:
- Restoration of long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project
- Protection of water quality

Advisory Committee Process for Identifying a Preferred Alternative

Step 1: Advisory Committee formed the Preferred Alternative Process Working Group
Step 2: Working Group identified process, attributes, and reported back to Advisory Committee
Step 3: Advisory Committee directed Technical Working Groups to:
- Review/add attributes
- Prioritize attributes
- Score alternatives with respect to attributes
- Provide information to Process Working Group
Overall Observations of Preferred Alternative Process Working Group

- Early Start Habitat and shallow saline habitat should be included in Preferred Alternative
- Most potential impacts can be mitigated - but many will remain "significant"
- Non-legislatively mandated recreation and economic opportunities could be incorporated into any alternative
- Some details are more appropriately developed at the project level (e.g. Air Quality Management)

Advisory Committee Comments - February 27, 2007 Meeting

- Include Saline Habitat Complex and Marine Sea
- Include Early Start Habitat
- Protect air quality
- Protect water quality to improve habitat
- Improve odor problems
- Consider Alternative 5 (in the Draft PEIR) with some components from other alternatives
Major Public Comments related to the Preferred Alternative

◆ Protect fish and birds that use the Salton Sea
  ▪ Include Marine Sea plus Saline Habitat Complex
    ✤ Saline Habitat Complex would be at least 25,000 to 50,000 acres
  ▪ Include Early Start Habitat
  ▪ Minimize water quality problems
◆ Protect air quality
  ▪ Use the air quality tool box actions as described in the Draft PEIR
◆ Maintain Salton Sea as agricultural repository
◆ Protect agricultural microclimate and minimize salt dust

Major Public Comments related to the Preferred Alternative

◆ Consider design adaptability to fluctuating inflows
  ▪ High flows during floods
  ▪ Low annual flows due to water conservation, land use changes, and climate changes
◆ Maintain water near communities, State Recreation Area, and wildlife areas
◆ Incorporate new Torres Martinez Reservation land use plan
◆ Provide for recreational and economic opportunities
Preferred Alternative Proposal

- **Saline Habitat Complex**
  - More than Alternative 5 and less than Alternative 2

- **Marine Sea**
  - Northern Marine Sea (similar to Alternative 5)
    - Maintain water depth of less than 12 meters deep to reduce water quality risks (as described in Draft PEIR)
  - Extend Marine Sea along western and eastern shorelines (similar to Alternative 3)
    - Maintain water depth of less than 12 meters without intermediary ring levees

- **Air Quality Management**
  - Actions as in Alternatives 2, 3, and 5

Proposed Preferred Alternative
Incorporates Marine Sea Concept from Alternative 5
Proposed Preferred Alternative
Incorporates Saline Habitat Complex Concept from Alternative 2

Proposed Preferred Alternative
Incorporates Concentric Ring Concept from Alternative 3
Proposed Preferred Alternative

Preferred Alternative Proposal Details

- **Saline Habitat Complex = 62,000 acres (total)**
- **Marine Sea = 34,000 acres**
  - Formed by 2022
  - Salinity less than 40,000 mg/L by 2023
- **Exposed Playa = 109,000 acres**
- **Brine Sink = 29,000 acres**
  - Salinity less than 200,000 mg/L until 2027
Comparison of Marine Sea to Other Water Bodies

- Proposed Preferred Alternative Marine Sea = 34,000 acres
- Mono Lake = 41,600 acres
- Lake Havasu = 21,000 acres
- San Diego Bay = 12,160 acres
- Diamond Valley = 4,500 acres
- Lake Elsinore = 3,000 acres
- Lake Perris = 2,250 acres
- Castaic Lake = 2,230 acres
- Skinner Lake = 1,400 acres
- Pyramid Lake = 1,360 acres
Proposed Preferred Alternative Marine Sea Distances

As a comparison, the Golden Gate Bridge is approximately one mile long.

Components That Could Be Considered During Project-level Analysis

- Recreation/Estuary Lake
- IID Reservoir
- Water treatment facilities
- Wetland treatment upstream in the New and Alamo rivers
- Saline Habitat Complex on the north
Major Project Level Study and Design (See Five-Year Plan)

◆ Complete project-level CEQA
◆ Conduct bathymetric surveys
◆ Analyze flow data available after 2004
◆ Conduct monitoring and testing
  ■ Emissions from exposed playa
  ■ Water quality of inflows
  ■ Soils under Saline Habitat Complex & Marine Sea
  ■ Geotechnical (soils, seismic, and hazards)
◆ Analyze construction methods and materials
◆ Complete site-specific biological studies
  ■ Breeding and roosting locations
◆ Complete Pre-designs and Final Designs

Proposed Preferred Alternative Assumptions (Same As In The Draft PEIR)

◆ Project level analyses, designs, and site access will be completed by 2014
◆ Inflow amounts and prioritization
◆ Construction of some components only after water recedes
  ■ Saline Habitat Complex
  ■ Air Quality Management
  ■ Access roads
◆ Construction of barriers using barges before water recedes
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<td>Saline Habitat Complex = 12,000 acres&lt;br&gt;Construction would occur in three periods&lt;br&gt;Marine Sea = 106,000 acres&lt;br&gt;Would not achieve salinity goal by 2018*</td>
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* Would meet salinity objective in 2056 if follows averaged 1,000,000 acre-feet per year.