DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

OLD MARINA SITE REHABILITATION PROJECT

November 2004

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2004

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED OLD MARINA SITE REHABILITATION PROJECT**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve

Description of the Proposed Project:

The project is the rehabilitation of the Old Marina Site Day Use Area. The current dilapidated day use area will be upgraded with new pavement, interpretive panels, picnic benches and a viewing platform. About half of the paved area will be removed and new pavement laid down.

Public Review Period:

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning November 1, 2004. Written comments should be submitted no later than November 30, 2004, to the following address:

Ken Anderson
California State Parks
PO Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142
Email – kande@parks.ca.gov
Fax – 530.525.3380

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Parks
Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve
US Forest Service Visitor Center
Mono Lake

California State Parks
Sierra District Headquarters
7360 Westlake Blvd
Tahoma, CA 96142

Lee Vining Public Library
Lee Vining, California

Mammoth Lakes Library
Mammoth Lakes, California

California State Parks Website
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=981

Your views and comments on potential impacts of the project on the environment are welcomed.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Mono County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq*., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq*.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Ken Anderson, Project Manager
California State Parks, Sierra District
P.O. Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142
Fax (530) 525-3380
Email kande@parks.ca.gov

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. Mitigation measures have also been incorporated into the project to eliminate any potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction.
  This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 - Project Description.
  This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

- Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.
  This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

- Chapter 4 - Summary of Mitigation Measures.
  This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.

- Chapter 5 - References.
  This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND, and includes a list of those preparing the report.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project. Based on the Environmental Checklist and the supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve would result in less than significant impacts for the following issues: agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems, and cumulative impacts. Impacts will be reduced to less than significant by the incorporation of mitigation measures for aesthetic and water quality issues.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a mitigated negative declaration shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

CHAPTER 2
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This IS/MND evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project. The project would rehabilitate dilapidated day use facilities.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, adjacent to the west side of Mono Lake, east of Highway 395, two miles north of the town of Lee Vining.

2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The Old Marina Site is just that, the location of an old marina and parking lot. Although the marina is gone, the site is still used by travelers along Highway 395 for the purposes of resting, picnicking and visiting the shore of Mono Lake. The continued use of the site creates the need for rehabilitating the existing facilities and fulfilling an educational opportunity with the installation of interpretive panels.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are to clean up the old site, rehabilitate the road, parking, and picnic facilities, and provide interpretive opportunities for the public.

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DPR proposes to make the improvements described herein to the Old Marina Site. The following is a summary of the planned improvements:

1) **The entrance road will be resurfaced.**
2) **The parking area will be reconfigured, resurfaced, and striped to designate car and RV parking. The paved surface area will be reduced by 50 percent (28,000sq. ft. to 12,000 sq. ft.).**
3) **The parking area will have wheel stops or curbs installed to keep the vehicles on the pavement.**
4) **Two ancillary roads leading to the lake will be converted to trails.**
5) **An interpretive display will be installed at the parking lot and small panels placed along the trails.**
6) **A viewing platform will be constructed near the future high water elevation.**
7) **Native plants will be planted to stabilize disturbed areas.**
8) **Appropriate drainage structures will be installed to mitigate run-off from the paved surfaces.**
9) **Two cement foundation structures will be removed including the avalanche cannon foundation and boat ramp foundation.**
10) **An old shooting range may be removed.**

2.6 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

The elements of the project requiring construction include reconfiguration of the parking lot, construction of a viewing platform, installation of interpretive panels, and conversion of roads to trails. Construction will not take place in the spring due to potential disturbance to nesting birds and the potential for erosion.

2.7 VISITATION

Visitation to the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve is about 200,000 people a year. There are no accurate numbers of visitors to the old marina site. However, it is estimated fifty to one hundred people visit the site daily during the summer months. Visitation to the site will be restricted during construction.

2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The project is consistent with the resource directives for State Reserves in that an existing facility will be rehabilitated and the total area of parking and road surfaces will be reduced. The project will be consistent with the National Forest Scenic Area designation bestowed on the Mono Lake Basin by the U.S. Congress, and managed under the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Comprehensive Management Plan of 1989. The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve does not have a general plan.

2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

DPR has approval authority for the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. The project will be coordinated with Caltrans in regards to ingress/egress to the project area from Highway 395.

2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

DPR often has other smaller maintenance programs and rehabilitation projects planned for a park unit. However, there are currently no other projects planned for the unit at this time.

CHAPTER 3
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1.	Project Title:	Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project
2.	Lead Agency Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation 1416 Ninth Street P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
3.	Contact Person & Phone Number:	Ken Anderson, (530) 525-9535
4.	Project Location:	Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve
5.	Project Sponsor Name & Address:	Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) Sierra District PO Box 266 Tahoma, CA 96142
6.	General Plan Designation:	There is no General Plan for the unit.
7.	Zoning:	Open Space/Recreation as described in the Mono County General Plan
8.	Description of Project:The Old Marina Site day use area will be rehabilitated.	
9.	Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:	Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section IX, Land Use Planning)
10.	Approval Required from Other Public Agencies: none	

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

If implemented as written, this project could result in a "Potentially Significant Impact" involving at least one area of the environmental factors checked below, as indicated in the Initial Study on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☒ None

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☐

I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☒

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents. ☐

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project. Therefore, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required. ☐

_____ _____

Hayden W. Sohm, District Superintendent, Sierra District Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:

   a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.

   b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.

   c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.

8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:

   a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question and

   b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The Environmental Analysis (Initial) Checklist was prepared to assess the proposed project's impact on the environment. The environmental setting for each topic describes the conditions currently existing at the project site. Potential environmental impacts, identified by checklist point, are addressed in the discussion section. For each impact identified as "less than significant with mitigation", mitigation measures have been specified to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located at Mono Lake, a beautiful east-side Sierra lake known for its scenic beauty and unusual tufa formations. In 1982 the State established the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. The purpose of the reserve is to protect and preserve the tufa and associated sand structures for the enjoyment and education of the public. In addition, the reserve is charged with protecting its native ecological associations, unique faunal and floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity. Section 304 of the California Wilderness Act (1984) established the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. This designation culminated several years of discussion and efforts and recognized the unique features and ecosystems of Mono Lake and the surrounding basin. The Inyo National Forest manages the scenic area under the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Comprehensive Management Plan (1989). Highway 395 is designated as a State Scenic Highway. Its purpose is to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from change that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Rehabilitation efforts will keep a low profile. Earth tone colors and natural materials will be used. The only structures above 3 feet high will be interpretive panels and the viewing platform. Other above ground features will include boulders placed for vehicle control to prevent vehicles from driving off the pavement. Additional picnic tables will be placed on site. Less than significant impact with mitigation.

b) Although a few shrubs may be removed to reconfigure the current paved parking area, no trees will be removed and any disturbed areas will be planted with native vegetation. Although the highway is designated scenic these impacts are considered less than significant because the areas of disturbance are small and the distance to the highway is at least 1200 feet away.

c) By reducing the square footage of the pavement at the facility the total developed area will be reduced, and the delapidated facilities replaced, thus improving the existing visual character of the area. Less than significant impact.

d) No artificial lighting will be installed at the site. No impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE FOR I-A
▪ Very few facilities taller than 3 feet will be installed at the site. Natural colors and materials will be used whenever possible. The square footage of paved area will be reduced by fifty percent from 28,000 to 12,000 sq. ft. Disturbed areas will be planted with native vegetation.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, about 47,600 acres in size (including lake surface and adjacent parcels), comprises isolated parcels around Mono Lake within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The Scenic Area includes 76,703 acres of land surrounding the 41,600 acres of Mono Lake. The project site is located within the scenic area.

The proposed project location is within the boundaries of the Mono Lake Tufa SR and contains no lands zoned for agriculture use. There are some private ranch grazing lands located in the Mono Lake Basin. They will not be impacted by this project.

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

DISCUSSION

a) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, Mono Lake Tufa SR does not support any agricultural operations. The proposed project would be confined within the reserve boundaries. No impact.

b) See a.

c) See a.

III. AIR QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve is located in the Mono Lake Basin in Mono County, a part of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region IX. Weather, elevation and a small industrial base result in relatively clean air in the vicinity of the park.

According to GBPCD, most areas within the District enjoy good air quality, with no exceeding of State standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM 10, or particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less) and no exceeding of federal standards. For 2002, Mono County was in attainment with California Standards for sulfates and was unclassified for carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide. An area is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment. The Basin was in attainment with California Standards for nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and sulfates. An area is in attainment if the state standard for the specified pollutant was not violated at any site during a three-year period.

However, in 2001, according to data from the California Air Resource Board, the Basin was in non-attainment for ozone and PM10. An area is designated in nonattainment if there was at least one violation of a state standard for the specified pollutant within the area boundaries. The Basin is currently unclassified for visibility reducing particles (VRPs), but PM10 (which includes dust and smoke particles) is a VRP, indicating a possible reason for concern in this area.

With respect to federal standards, the Basin is in an unclassified attainment zone for ozone, carbon monoxide, and PM10. (Attainment status for both state and federal standards, per www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.html/age&m.htm, CARB 1999 & 2001).

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make these determinations.

DISCUSSION

a) Air quality is generally good along the east side of the Sierras. Although cars will pull off of Highway 395 and park at the day use area, the increase in auto emissions is not anticipated to be substantial. Therefore, less than significant impact.

b) The proposed project would not emit air contaminants at levels that, by themselves, would violate any local, state, or federal ambient air quality standard, or contribute to a permanent or long-term increase in any air contaminant. However, project construction would generate short-term emissions of fugitive dust (PM10) and involve the use of equipment that would emit ozone precursors (i.e. reactive organic gases [ROG] and nitrogen oxides, or Nox). Construction related omissions are generally short-term in duration, but may still cause adverse air quality impacts. There may also be minor dust created when construction is underway. Since these construction related emissions are short term in nature, and the prevailing winds will carry the emissions away from land and out into the lake, and the area will be closed during construction the impacts are considered less than significant.

c) See a.

d) Project construction has the potential to generate dust and equipment exhaust emissions. During the construction period, the reserve would remain open to public access with the exception of the marina area where construction will be taking place. No impact

e) The proposed work would not result in the long-term generation of odors. Construction related emissions may result in short-term generation of odors, including diesel exhaust and fuel vapors. These odors might be considered objectionable by some reserve visitors. However, because the area would be closed to the public during construction, and construction activities would be short-term, and odorous emissions would dissipate rapidly in the air, potential odor impacts would be considered less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono Lake is a tremendous biological resource. There are approximately 266 vertebrate species, 170 birds, 3 amphibians, 10 reptiles and 3 fish species in the Mono Basin. All of these species depend upon Mono Lake for some part of their life cycle. Some of the listed species found in the general area include peregrine falcon, bald eagle, Sierra mountain sheep and the northern goshawk.

The lake serves as a resting and feeding spot for many birds flying the East Sierra flyway. Brine shrimp (Artemia monica) and brine flies provide a feast for more than 70 species of migratory birds. Eared grebes (Podiceps nigricollis) numbering in the hundreds of thousands, visit the lake in the fall along with Wilson's (Phalaropus tricolor) and red-necked phalaropes (Phalaropus robatus). About 50,000 California Gulls (Larus californicus) nest at the lake. The two main islands, Negit and Paoha, are closed during the nesting season (April 1 – August 1). The lake biota consists of bacteria, 18 species of algae, including benthic algae and phytoplankton, the alkali (brine) fly and the brine shrimp, and seven other species of flies.

The vegetation on the recessed lands (land between the water's edge and 6417 ft elevation) in the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve consists of three plant communities: marsh, wet meadows, and willow. Drier sites of the lakeshore are vegetated with alkaline herb community, the dry meadow (salt grass) community, and the rubber rabbit brush community. Most of the areas are bare or sparsely vegetated.

The project area is located between 6392 ft. elevation and 6417 ft. elevation. The project will remove a few low growing shrubs, having less than significant impacts to any existing vegetation or habitat. Through the reduction of the area covered by cement and asphalt by 50%, the project will actually result in net benefits to plant and wildlife habitat once the uncovered areas become vegetated. Therefore, no negative impacts to biological resources are expected as a result of this project.

Special Status Species

As part of the project a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) search was conducted as well as a query for CNPS species for potential special status species and habitats around Mono Lake. The search results are included in the appendix of this document. Since the project is mainly the removal of asphalt and cement, and the upgrade of existing facilities, no impacts to these species are anticipated. The potential species include; the Yosemite Toad, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, Willow Flycatcher, Western Snowy Plover, Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver, Sierra Nevada Red Fox, Pacific Fisher, California Wolverine, Tiehm's rock cress, Single-spiked sedge, Tahoe draba, Subalpine draba, Small-flowered fescue, Frog's bit buttercup, Short-fruited willow, Snow willow, Oregon campion, Masonic Mountain jewel flower, Foxtail thelypodium, California Gull, Yellow Warbler, Mono Pumice Flat, Mono Brine Shrimp, Mono Lake Lupine, Hairy Evening Primrose, and Utah Monkey Flower.

LESS THAN

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive species habitat identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The majority of the project will take place on existing pavement and structures. The current parking lot will be reconfigured resulting in the removal of a few shrubs. Impacts from the removal of a few shrubs are not considered substantial. About 50% of the paved area will be removed resulting in an increase of habitat. Therefore, less than significant impact.

b) The project is not located in any riparian area or sensitive species habitat. None of the willow community on the periphery of the project area will be impacted during project construction. No impact.

c) The project is not located in a wetlands. The project will be designed to move the current parking lot away from the lake which will eventually rise closer towards the facility. The lake is approximately 100 meters away. At full capacity the lake shoreline will be approximately 50 meters from the edge of the parking lot. No impact.

d) The project is not located near any stream courses and will result in a net increase in wildlife habitat when the paved surface area is reduced by about 50 percent. No impact.

e) No local biological protection ordinances will be violated by this project. No impact.

f) There is no HCP in affect for the area. No impact.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Mono Lake Paiute or Kuedika occupied the Mono Lake Basin, for the last 3,000 years. Modern investigations to date have uncovered little evidence of their sites near the present lake margin with most all recorded sites located above 6,440 feet. Since the project area is located between 6392 ft and 4417 ft. it is anticipated no sites will be impacted. A cultural resource survey and report (5024 PRC) was completed for the project and no impacts to cultural resources were reported. Nothing within the project area was deemed historic. Modern history includes the settlement of Lee Vining and other small communities in the area by settlers drawn to the gold fields of Bodie and elsewhere in the 1800's, and by those seeking the passes over the Sierras such as the adjacent Tioga Pass.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to§15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) As part of the project planning a complete archaeological reconnaissance was performed on site to insure no significant cultural resources would be negatively impacted. No impact

b) See a.

c) There are no known human remains at the site. If any remains are discovered during the course of the project the County Coroner will be contacted as well as local tribal contacts. No impact.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono Lake is the remnant of an ancient sea called Lake Lahontan. Lake Lahontan was over 700,000 years old. It was a deep, fresh water lake covering 8,000 square miles and was present until about 10,000 years ago. Throughout its existence salts and minerals have washed into the lake which has no outlet. Now the soils around the shrunken lake are very salty. The unusual tufa formations are the distinguishing geologic feature of the lake. The spires and knobs are formed when calcium bearing freshwater springs well up through alkaline lake water which is rich in carbonates. The calcium and carbonate combine, precipitating out as limestone and thus forming the tufa towers.

In general, the area is seismically active, with volcanic activity as recent as three hundred years ago.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic	☐	☐	☐	☒

feature?

DISCUSSION

a) Best management practices will be used during construction to minimize soil disturbance. The area of work will be restricted by fencing. Straw bales will be used to capture runoff.No tufa formations will be disturbed by the project. The project is located in an area that would be safe. No structures are being constructed that would represent a safety hazard during an earthquake. No impact.

b) This project is rehabilitation of an existing site. There will be little soil disturbance as a result of the project. A storm water sediment trap will be built to keep runoff sediment on site. If required a SWPPP will be acquired for the project. No impact.

c) The project area is a dry, relatively flat location. No impact.

d) The soils in the project area are not expansive. No impact.

e) There are no sewer systems associated with the proposed project. No impact.

f) No tufa formations are found within the project area. No impact.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

With the exception of the dust blowing off the expansive salt flats on the north and east side of the lake there are no hazards or hazardous materials around the lake. None of the Reserve's facilities use or store substantial amounts of hazardous materials on site. There is no known hazardous contamination and the site is not suspected of containing any hazardous waste, debris, or soil contamination. No airstrips exist within the park or adjacent to park property.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) Heavy equipment used to construct the project would increase the risk of diesel fuel and/or hydraulic oil spills. However, transport, storage, use and handling of such material would occur in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. The materials would be contained within vessels engineered for safe storage. Large quantities of these materials would not be stored at the construction site. Spills, upsets, or other construction related accidents could result in a release of fuel or other hazardous substances into the environment. Also, if the firing range is closed and rehabilitated, the soil around the range will be sifted for lead bullet material and the material transported according to safety regulations for transportation of hazardous materials to an approved waste disposal site. The project will have less than significant impacts with the implementation of Mitigation Measures Hazmat-1 below.

b) See a.

c) There are no schools within one-quarter mile of the project site. Therefore, no impact.

d) The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of this project.

e) The closest airstrip is several miles away. No impact.

f) See e.

g) All construction activities associated with the project would occur within the boundaries of the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve and work would not restrict access to or block any public road. Therefore, there would be no interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impact would occur as a result of this project.

h) The project area has Mono Lake to the east and Highway 395 to the west, both providing effective fire barriers under most conditions. All equipment will have required spark arresters and fire extinguishers. Therefore the project will have a less than significant impact on fire hazard.

MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT - 1
▪ All equipment will be inspected for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.

- The contractors will prepare an emergency spill response plan prior to the start of construction and maintain a spill kit onsite. This plan will include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. These activities will occur away from any riparian or stream or lake zone. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form or immediately adjacent to the park during construction, the contractor will immediately notify the appropriate DPR staff (project manager or state representative)
- Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside of park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono Lake is the remnant of an ancient sea called Lake Lahontan. Lake Lahontan was over 700,000 years old. It was a deep, fresh water lake covering 8,000 square miles and was present until about 10,000 years ago. Throughout its existence salts and minerals have washed into the lake which has no outlet. There are several fresh water creeks that flow into the lake including Rush and Lee Vining creeks. The lake has always been relatively alkaline becoming more so when water diversions greatly reduced the influx of freshwater. The water is relatively free of contaminants and pollution since all of the creeks flowing into the lake have little or no human activity around them.

The project construction would take place during the dry summer months when little or no runoff occurs. The expected maximum lake elevation is 6,392 ft. The viewing platform will be constructed adjacent to the maximum lake elevation. The parking lot and other improvements will be approximately 270 feet from the maximum lake elevation.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?				
h)	Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j)	Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The parking area will be designed to send storm water from the paved areas to the oil/water separator structure. Water will then percolate down through the structure. There is no waste discharge associated with the project. No impact.

b) The project will not require water. No impact.

c) The project will not effect current drainage patterns. Also, the reduction in paved surface area will increase natural infiltration around the project area. No impact.

d) See c.

e) See a.

f) See a.

g) The project does not include housing. No impact.

h) The legal decision for lake level is set at 3920 ft. When that lake level is met, all water from the incoming streams is diverted. Therefore, the project area will not be flooded and is outside of a flood plain. No impact.

i) See g

j) Activities proposed as part of this project would not increase public exposure to these events. No impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE FOR A
▪ Drainage will be captured off of the pavement by an oil/water/sediment trap.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono Lake and the surrounding basin consists of state and federal land, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power parcels, a small county parcel, and a few small, private parcels. The public lands are managed by several entities including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, the State Lands Commission and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The U.S. Forest Service designates the Mono Lake Basin as a National Scenic Area. The designation restricts activities that may substantially detract from the scenic beauty of the area. The basin's management is described in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan. Also, the Department of Transportation designates Highway 395 as a scenic highway.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project is to improve an existing facility, therefore not altering the overall environmental setting. No impact.

b) The project is compatible with the National Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan interms of management prescriptions and guidelines for aesthetic and natural resources. No impact.

c) There is no established habitat conservation plan for Mono Lake. No impact.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

With the exception of the unusual tufa formations, the Mono Lake Basin is not known for any mineral resources. A private company mines cinder cone material on the north side of the lake.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) There are no known mineral issues involved with this project.

b) See a.

XI. NOISE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Mono Lake Basin is relatively quiet. There are few activities and development around the lake to generate noise. Highway 395 generates the most noise in the basin. Small airplanes occasionally fly over the basin.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project will not violate any local or county noise ordinance. The project will generate noise only during project construction. This construction noise will be of a temporary nature, and other areas within the unit will be unaffected, allowing other opportunities for visitors to enjoy the quiet nature of the basin. There may be slightly more noise generated afterwards since more people may stop at the improved day use facility.

b) The temporary vibrations caused by construction equipment will not be felt outside the project area.

c) See a.

d) See a.

e) There is no airport nearby.

f) There is no known private airstrip nearby.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The small towns of Lee Vining and Mono City with a total population of less than 1,000 people are the only concentrations of population in the basin. The general area is rural in nature, with pockets of small community development. Growth in the area is very limited. Primary access to the area is via Highway 395. No residences are located in the project site. The project site may be viewed from Highway 395.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project would consist of rehabilitation of old marina site. The project would not have a housing component. All activity would take place within the confines of the reserve boundaries, with no additions or changes to the existing infrastructure. Therefore the project would have no impact on population growth in the area.

b) No housing will be displaced by the project.

c) No people will be displaced by the project.

XII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Mono County, California State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service provide the bulk of law enforcement and fire response services, and recreation opportunities in the area. The closest fire station is a volunteer station in Lee Vining approximately two miles away. The US Forest Service also has a fire station about 1 mile west of Lee Vining. The closest police/sheriff office is in Bridgeport, approximately 15 miles north of Mono Lake.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) This project will have no impact on the level of public services offered in the area. It will improve recreation experienc in the area. State Park and U.S. Forest Service Rangers with law enforcement authority patrol the reserve boundaries, police the use of activity areas, enforce the public resource code, provide lifeguard service, and guard against vegetative, flood, erosion, and fire damage. The Mono County Sheriff's Department responds to emergency calls and assists with criminal investigations. This project would have no impact on police services. No schools exist within or adjacent to the project area. No changes would occur that would effect existing schools or require additional schools or school personnel.

Construction equipment will be inspected for spark arresters and fire extinguishers. Work will not be performed during high fire danger "Red Flag" warning periods. No impact.

XIV. RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Recreation in the Mono Lake Basin includes hiking, biking, boating, nature study, photography, and dispersed camping. There is a USFS interpretive center near Lee Vining and a boardwalk and viewing platform at the county park. The US Forest Service, California State Parks, and Mono County provide recreation amenities and opportunities.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) Although a slight increase in public use of the facilities will occur as a result of the planned upgrades, the ability of the site to handle increased numbers of people will also be improved as a result of the upgrades. The minor increase in number of people at the site is considered less than significant.

b) The planned improvements will help to better protect the environment by keeping people from driving off the pavement and by fostering respect for the environment through interpretation.

XV. TRANSPORATION/TRAFFIC.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The main transportation features around the lake include Highways 167 and 395. These highways are full service roads accommodating all types of street legal transportation and emergency vehicles. Dirt roads circumvent the lake. These roads are only passable with four wheel drive vehicles due to soft sand.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) There will be no impacts to traffic from the construction due to the low number of vehicles and equipment needed to complete the project. California State Parks will work closely with Caltrans to insure the project incorporates all recommended design features along Highway 395 to facilitate ingress/egress to the day use facility. No impact.

b) California State Parks will work with the county to insure the project does not exceed service standards. Also, the project is anticipated to only slightly increase visitation at the site. Less than significant impact.

c) This project does not have a air traffic element. No impact

d) See a.

e) The project will accommodate emergency access vehicles. No impact.

f) The project will result in improved parking design. No impact.

g) The project will not conflict with any plans or policies regarding alternative transportation. No impact.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

There are no existing utilities (water, sewer, or electricity) on the project site.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) There is no wastewater element to this project. No impact.

b) See a.

c) An oil/water treatment basin will be installed to treat runoff from the parking lot. No impact.

d) Water will not be provided at the site.

e) Waste water is not a project element.

f) The slight increase in use at the site is not anticipated to change the frequency of trash pick-up.

g) No impact.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probably future projects?)	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and its plant and animal communities. There were no adverse impacts identified to biological resources from the project.

b) A cultural resource survey and PRC 5024 Report was filed for the project and no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified.

c) There are no other construction projects ongoing or planned in the park unit. No impact.

d) Most project-related environmental effects have been determined to pose a less than significant impact on humans. However, mitigation measures have been incorporated to reduce impacts to less than significant for aesthetics, hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality.

CHAPTER 4
SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures would be implemented by DPR as part of the Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

Aesthetics

- Very few amenities above 3 feet will be installed at the site. Natural colors and materials will be used whenever possible. The square footage of the paved area will be reduced by about fifty percent from 28,000 to 12,000 sq. ft. Disturbed areas will be planted with native vegetation.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Drainage will be captured off of the pavement by an oil/water/sediment trap.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- All equipment will be inspected for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.
- The contractors will prepare an emergency spill response plan prior to the start of construction and maintain a spill kit onsite. This plan will include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. These activities will occur away from any riparian or stream or lake zone. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form or immediately adjacent to the park during construction, the contractor will immediately notify the appropriate DPR staff (project manager or state representative)
- Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside of park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.

CHAPTER 5
REFERENCES

Mono Lake Basin Water Right Decision 1631 – Testimony of W. James Barry, PH.D

Compliance Reporting – In Response to the State Water Resource Control Board – Orders Numbers 98-05 and 98-07. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area/Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve Brochure and Public Information Handout

Mono Lake Newsletter – Summer 2002

For Mono Lake Natural History – www.monolake.org/naturalhistory/ and http://www.livinglakes.org/mono/

For government publications on Mono Lake - http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/

For information on air quality in the Mono Lake Basin - http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/aqe&m.htm

California Natural Diversity Data Base

Report Preparation

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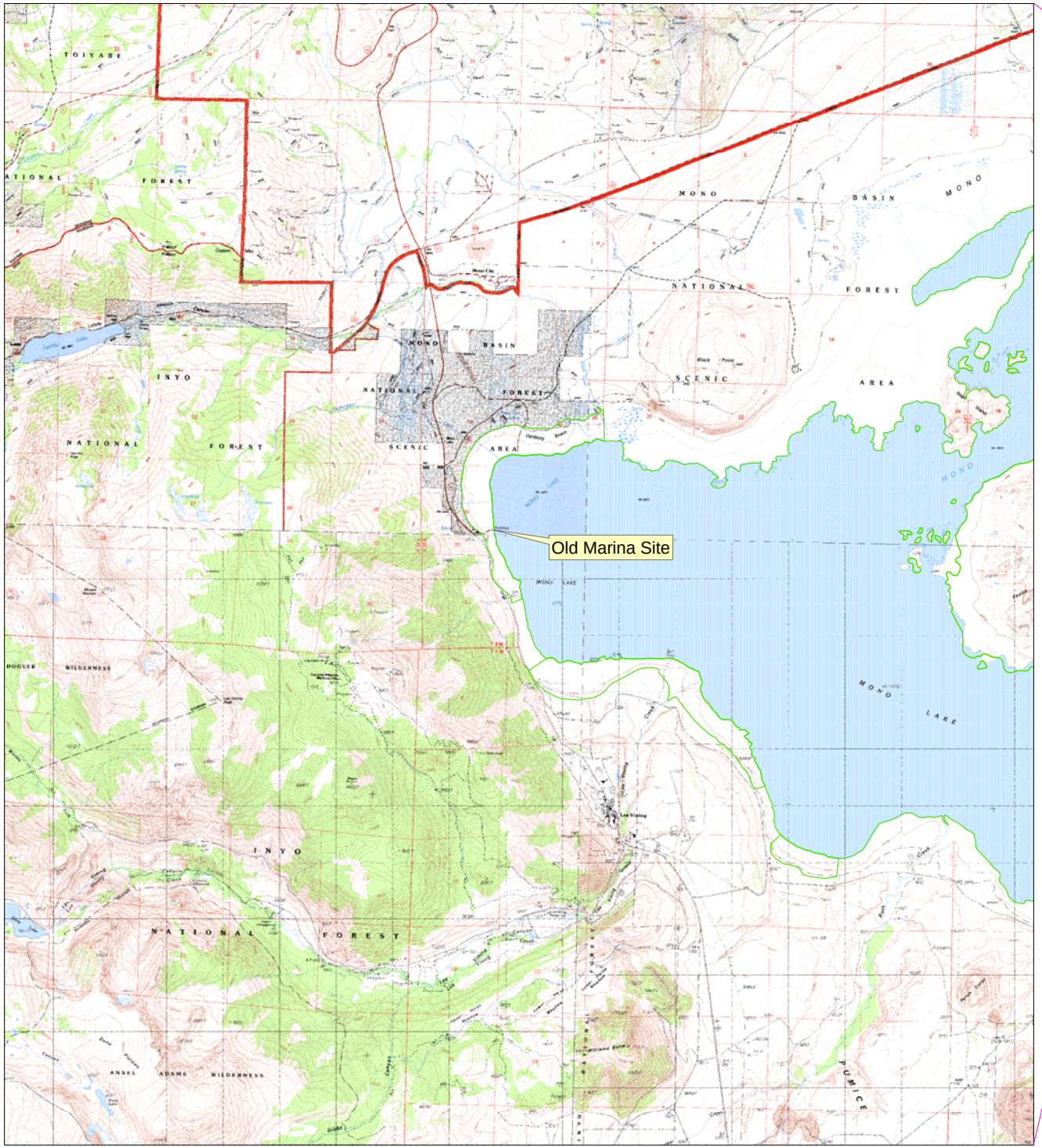
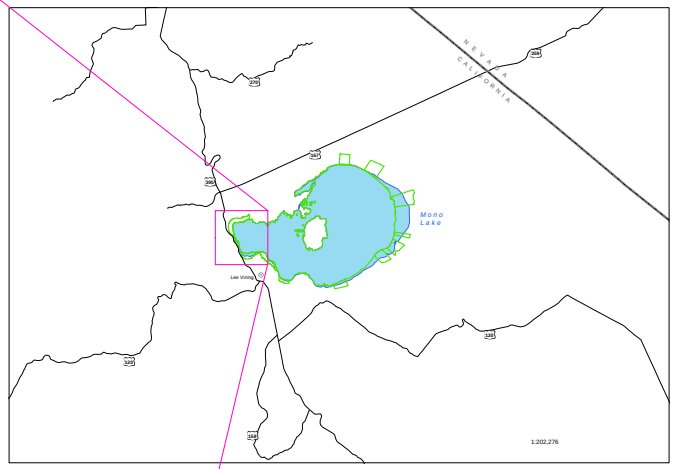
APPENDIX A

MAPS

Old Marina Site Rehabilitation Project - Mitigated Negative Declaration





Miles

0 5 10 20 30 40

Key to Features

- Roads
- Lakes
- State Boundary
- State Park Boundary

USGS Merged Topographic 7.5' Series

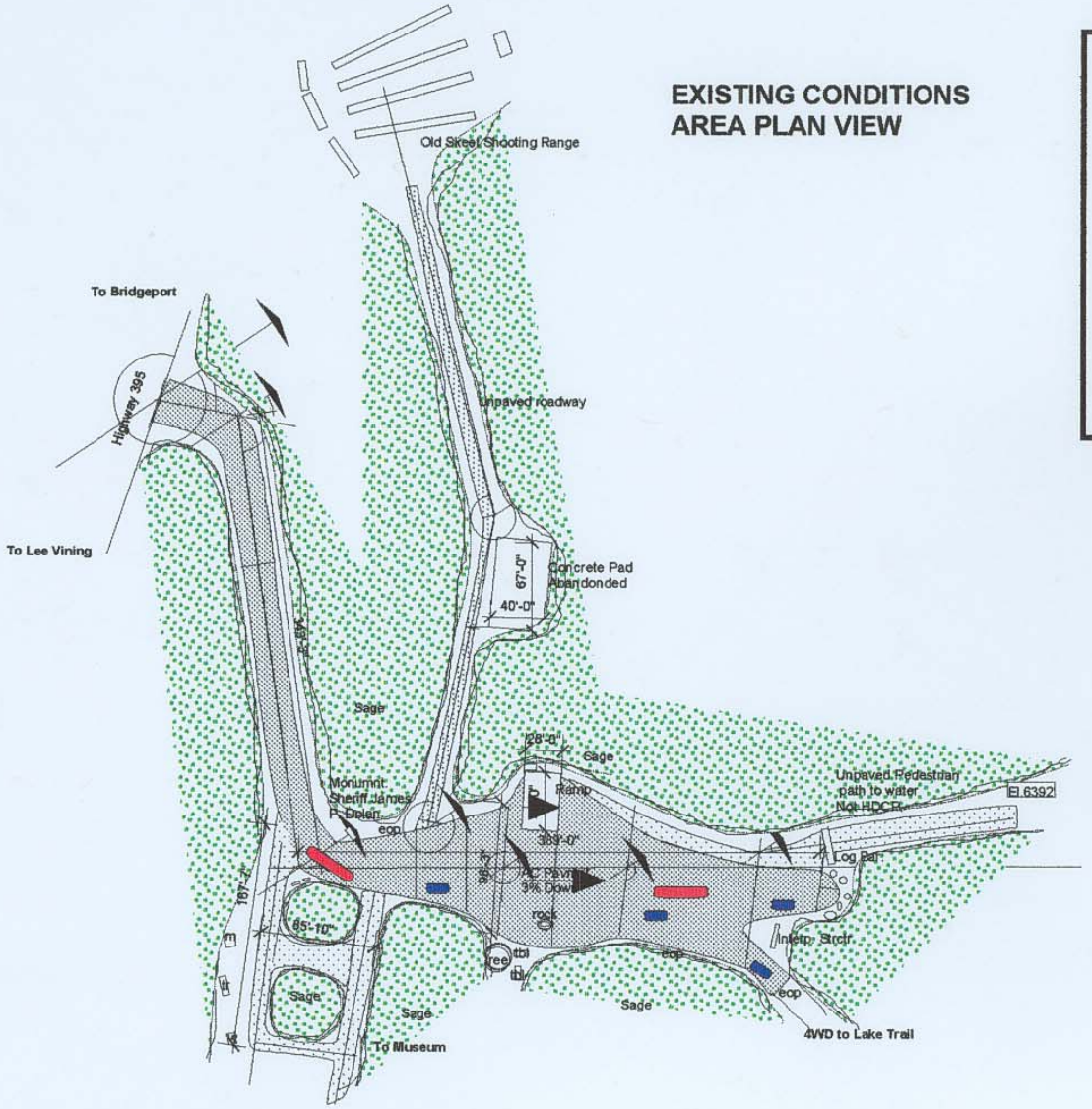
Projection: UTM, Zone 11, Datum NAD83
Accurate for planning purposes only.

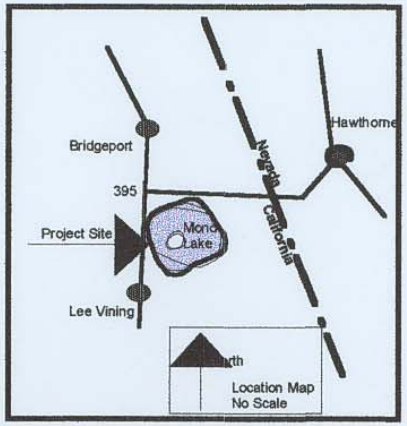
//gis-power/c:/arcmaps/
mono_oldmarina_negdec.mxd
Created by PE Mandeno
Date: 08/19/04

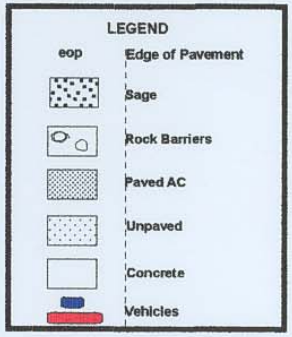
APPENDIX B

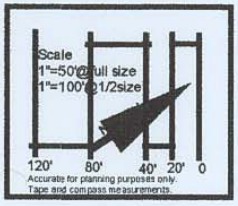
PROJECT DESIGN GRAPHICS

EXISTING CONDITIONS
AREA PLAN VIEW









RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

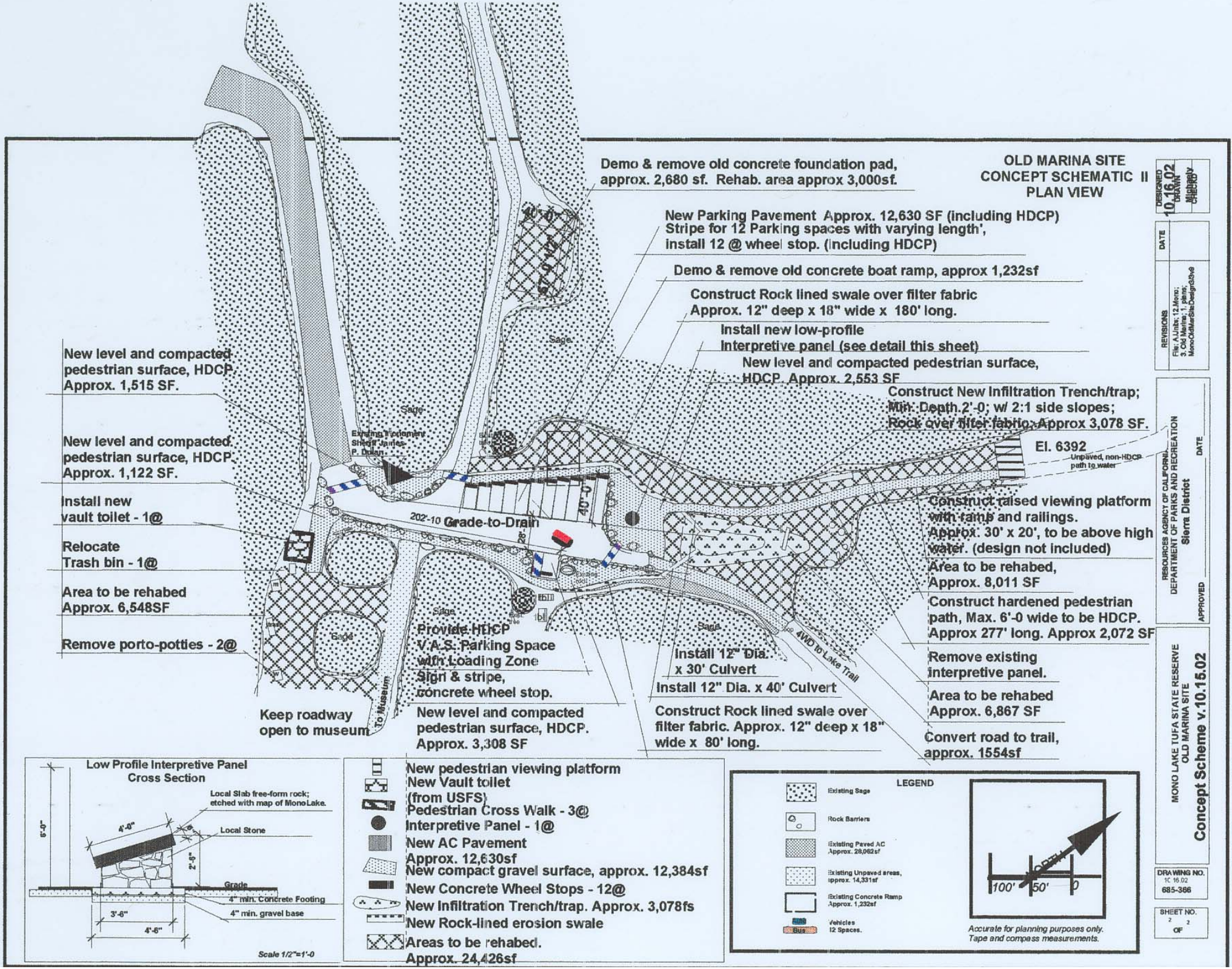
Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve
Old Marina Site
EXISTING CONDITION

DESIGNED
DRAWN
7.26.0

REVISIONS
DATE

DRAWING
1685-3
7.26.0

SHEET N
1 OF


OLD MARINA SITE
CONCEPT SCHEMATIC II
PLAN VIEW
Demo & remove old concrete foundation pad, approx. 2,680 sf. Rehab. area approx 3,000sf.
New Parking Pavement Approx. 12,630 SF (including HDCP)
Stripe for 12 Parking spaces with varying length',
install 12 @ wheel stop. (including HDCP)
Demo & remove old concrete boat ramp, approx 1,232sf
Construct Rock lined swale over filter fabric
Approx. 12" deep x 18" wide x 180' long.
Install new low-profile
Interpretive panel (see detail this sheet)
New level and compacted pedestrian surface,
HDCP. Approx. 2,553 SF
Construct New Infiltration Trench/trap;
Min. Depth 2'-0; w/ 2:1 side slopes;
Rock over filter fabric. Approx 3,078 SF.
El. 6392
Unpaved, non-HDCP path to water
New level and compacted pedestrian surface, HDCP.
Approx. 1,515 SF.
New level and compacted pedestrian surface, HDCP.
Approx. 1,122 SF.
Install new vault toilet - 1@
Relocate Trash bin - 1@
Area to be rehabed
Approx. 6,548SF
Remove porto-potties - 2@
Existing Monument
Sheriff James P. Dolan
202'-10" Grade-to-Drain
40'-0"
28'-0"
Sage
Provide HDCP V.A.S. Parking Space with Loading Zone Sign & stripe, concrete wheel stop.
New level and compacted pedestrian surface, HDCP.
Approx. 3,308 SF
Keep roadway open to museum
To Museum
Install 12" Dia. x 30' Culvert
Install 12" Dia. x 40' Culvert
Construct Rock lined swale over filter fabric. Approx. 12" deep x 18" wide x 80' long.
4WD to Lake Trail
Construct raised viewing platform with ramp and railings.
Approx. 30' x 20', to be above high water. (design not included)
Area to be rehabed,
Approx. 8,011 SF
Construct hardened pedestrian path, Max. 6'-0 wide to be HDCP.
Approx 277' long. Approx 2,072 SF
Remove existing interpretive panel.
Area to be rehabed
Approx. 6,867 SF
Convert road to trail,
approx. 1554sf
Low Profile Interpretive Panel
Cross Section
Local Slab free-form rock; etched with map of MonoLake.
Local Stone
Grade
4" min. Concrete Footing
4" min. gravel base
6'-0"
4'-0"
2'-5"
3'-6"
4'-6"
Scale 1/2"=1'-0
New pedestrian viewing platform
New Vault toilet (from USFS)
Pedestrian Cross Walk - 3@
Interpretive Panel - 1@
New AC Pavement
Approx. 12,630sf
New compact gravel surface, approx. 12,384sf
New Concrete Wheel Stops - 12@
New Infiltration Trench/trap. Approx. 3,078fs
New Rock-lined erosion swale
Areas to be rehabed.
Approx. 24,426sf
LEGEND
Existing Sage
Rock Barriers
Existing Paved AC Approx. 28,062sf
Existing Unpaved areas, approx. 14,331sf
Existing Concrete Ramp Approx. 1,232sf
Vehicles 12 Spaces.
100'
50'
0
Accurate for planning purposes only. Tape and compass measurements.
DESIGNED
10.16.02
DRAWN
CHECKED
DATE
REVISIONS
File: AJ.nds; 12.Mono; 3. Old Marina; 1. plans; MonoOldMarineSiteDesignSys
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Sierra District
APPROVED
DATE
MONO LAKE TUFA STATE RESERVE
OLD MARINA SITE
Concept Scheme v.10.15.02
DRAWING NO.
1C 16 02
685-366
SHEET NO.
2 2
OF

APPENDIX C

SPECIES LIST
CNDDB RECORD SEARCH

SUMMARY OF PROJECT EFFECTS ON SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

OLD MARINA SITE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Determination	Habitat Present
Yosemite Toad	Bufo canorus	CSC,FSS	No	No	No effect	No
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	CSC,FSS	No	No	No effect	No
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	FT, SE	No	No	No effect	No
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo swainsoni	ST, CSC	No	No	No effect	No
Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii	SE, FSS	No	No	No effect	No
Western Snowy Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus	ST	No	No	No effect	No
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia brewsteri	CSC	No	No	No effect	No
Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver	Aplodontia rufa californica	CSC	No	No	No effect	No
Sierra Nevada Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes nectator	ST, FSS	No	No	No effect	No
Pacific Fisher	Martes pennanti pacifica	CSC	No	No	No effect	No
California Wolverine	Gulo gulo luteus	ST, FSS	No	No	No effect	No
Tiehm's rock cress	Arabis tiehmii	CNPS 1B	No	No	No effect	No
Single-spiked sedge	Cares scirpoidea	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Tahoe draba	Draba asterophors	CNPS 1B	No	No	No effect	No
Subalpine draba	Draba praealta	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Small flowered fescue	Festuca minutiflora	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Mono Lake lupine	Lupinus duranii	CNPS 1B	No	No	No effect	No
Utah monkey flower	Mimulus glaratus	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Frogs-bit buttercup	Ranunculus hydrocharoides	CNPS 1B	No	No	No effect	No
Short-fruited willow	Salix brachycarpa	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Snow willow	Salix nivalis	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Oregon campion	Silene oregana	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No
Masonic Mt. Jewel Flower	Streptanthus oliganthus	CNPS 1B	No	No	No effect	No
Foxtail thelypodium	Thelpodium integrifolium	CNPS 2	No	No	No effect	No