

**SEPULVEDA BASIN MASTER PLAN AND
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/STATEMENT
Los Angeles, California**

**U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**

**DRAFT: OCTOBER, 1980
FINAL: MARCH, 1981**

PREFACE

The recreational development of the Sepulveda flood control basin has taken place in stages by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Departments since 1959. This report is an update of the Recreation Master Plan for the Sepulveda flood control basin, last revised in November 1973. The updated master plan for 1980 presents a comprehensive description of facilities developed since the 1973 plan; facilities approved but not yet developed; and a program of proposed recreation development anticipated to serve the San Fernando Valley area into the next century. The updated master plan has been prepared as a requirement for further development of the Sepulveda Basin under the Code 710 program, as defined by EC 1130-1-121, dated March 14, 1973, "Project Operation, Recreation Development at Completed Projects, Code 710 Program."

RECORD OF DECISION
SEPULVEDA BASIN MASTER PLAN
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Decision. Based on a review of the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement, and associated correspondence received in response to coordination of this document, I have decided to approve the updated Master Plan as described in the subject document. Details of the plan may change as conditions dictate, but the plan should remain as a framework for the general intensity and distribution of recreational uses in the basin.

The updated Master Plan provides the basis for the creation of new recreational opportunities for the 2,150 acre Sepulveda Basin. At present, approximately 1,060 acres of land in the Basin are committed to existing recreational uses. The updated Master Plan is concerned with an additional 540 acres of land that are available for future recreational uses. With an orientation towards open space as its unifying theme, the updated Master Plan envisions the Basin as a regional park serving primarily its surrounding communities. Included in the updated Master Plan are provisions for the commitment of approximately 220 acres of land to informal park space, 120 acres for development of a recreational lake, 60 acres for a wildlife management area, and 60 acres for an Arts Park.

Although the recreation lake was once considered to be used as the site for the rowing and canoeing events in the 1984 summer Olympics, the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee has since decided not to stage any Olympic events within the Basin. Because of this decision, subsequent Feature Design Memorandums will reflect a lake both significantly reduced in size and located outside of the Los Angeles River Flood Control Channel. It is anticipated that the configuration of the lake will be similar to that described in Alternative B.

Alternatives and Considerations Balanced in Making the Decision. In arriving at the decision to select the updated Master Plan, five plans were formulated and evaluated. Each plan was studied in detail and is fully described in the Report and Environmental Impact Statement. In addition to the updated Master Plan, the following alternatives were considered:

a. Alternative A was based on the concept that the Basin would serve as an intensive recreation resource for the San Fernando Valley as a whole. This alternative was orientated around providing competition facilities with major spectator components. Included in Alternative A are the provisions for the commitment of approximately 190 acres of land for informal park space, 120 acres for the development of a recreational lake, 60 acres for a wildlife management area, 60 acres for an Arts Park, and 15 acres for velodrome and tennis stadium.

b. Alternative B was based on the concept that the Basin should provide an open space relief and amenity to the urbanization of the San Fernando Valley, with an emphasis on informal and unstructured park development.

cluded in Alternative B are the provisions for the commitment of approximately 330 acres for informal park space, 60 acres for a wildlife management area, and 50 acres for an Arts Park.

c. Alternative C was developed with the concept of providing a variety of recreational facilities to service the needs of the communities surrounding the Basin. This would be accomplished without the major dislocations and significant sports facilities associated with a regional intensive use plan. Included in Alternative C are the provisions for the commitment of approximately 290 acres for informal park space, 60 acres for an Arts Park, and 15 acres for a swimming pool and tennis complex.

d. The "No-Build" alternative consists of the continuation of the existing and committed uses in the Basin.

Detailed evaluations and comparisons of the five plans resulted in the approval of the updated Master Plan because of its ability to provide a reasonable balance between intensity of use and the concept of maintaining an open park-like setting for the Basin.

Means to Avoid or Minimize Adverse Environmental Effects. All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the updated Master Plan. Mitigation efforts outlined in the approved Plan include:

a. The phasing of park development over a long time period; holding large units of agricultural lands in reserve for extended periods as "interim priority" uses;

b. lining lakes and ponds with on-site clays compacted to provide an impervious bed to minimize seepage losses;

c. controlling the application of effluent during irrigation such that loading is gauged to provide the maximum utilization of the effluent by vegetation;

d. designing reaches of newly-formed lakes and ponds to emulate existing wetland conditions on the site and by replanting existing riparian plant species;

e. undertaking a lake management program to avoid/reduce any excessive eutrophication;

f. accompanying new park developments with the introduction of native plant species to create new habitats in the basin;

g. expanding the wildlife management area to mitigate habitat losses from new development;

h. minimizing traffic congestion by either;

(1) widening the east and west intersection approaches on Burbank Boulevard for an additional travel lane in each direction; or

(2) prohibiting parking on the north bound intersection approach
alboa Boulevard).

i. constructing earth berms in the area of the Arts Park to attenuate the
acoustical effects of staged events; and

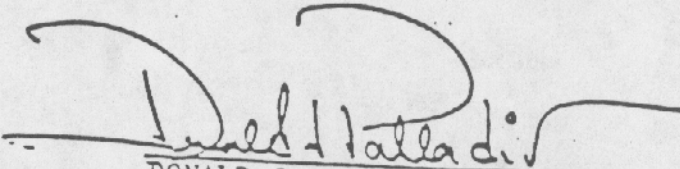
j. controlling dust emissions during construction by the frequent
application of water and limiting the amount of area exposed to wind erosion
at any one time.

Compliance with Environmental Requirements. The updated Master Plan is in
compliance with applicable environmental requirements. The water quality
impacts have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404 (b)(1)
Guidelines of the Clean Water Act of 1977 and have been determined to be not
adverse. Certification from the California State Water Quality Control Board
will be sought in a later stage of planning. No endangered or threatened
species of wildlife, designated as such pursuant to the Endangered Species Act
of 1973, are known to inhabit the project area. Recommendations of the US Fish
and Wildlife Service, made pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
of 1958, have been adopted to the fullest extent practicable. Coordination
with the California State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory
Council on Historic Preservation was initiated pursuant to the National
Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Based on this coordination and a cultural
resources survey, it has been concluded that no properties included in or
eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be
affected. The plan complies with Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain
Management because major structure and intensive use areas will be located
above the 100-year flood elevation when possible. The implementation of the
plan will not reduce the flood storage capacity of the basin. The plan
complies with Executive Order 11990 on Protection of Wetlands because a
determination has been made that no practicable alternative to undertaking
construction in the wetlands areas exists. In addition, the plan will create
additional wetland areas in the form of ponds and the extension of the
existing Wildlife Management Area. The plan is also in compliance with the
CEQ Memorandum on Prime and Unique Farmlands, as the US Soil Conservation
Service has stated that the Environmental Impact Statement adequately
considered the impacts upon prime agricultural land.

Summary. In summary, I find that the updated Master Plan represents the
course of action that, on balance, best serves the overall public interest.

Date

7 November 83


DONALD J. PALLADINO
Brigadier General; US Army
Division Engineer

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PUBLICATIONS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Analysis of Design, 57-ft. x 10 ft. Crest gates for Sepulveda Dam	October 1937
Analysis of Design, Sepulveda Dam Vol. I Revised October 1941	August 1939
Analysis of Design, Bridges and Channels Vol II	March 1940
Analysis of Design, Balboa Blvd. Bridge Vol. III	November 1940
Preliminary Report, Recreational Development, Sepulveda Flood-Control Basin	April 1947
Report, Master Recreation Plan Sepulveda Flood-Control Reservoir	March 1953
Sepulveda Dam and Reservoir, Periodic Inspection and Continuing Evaluation Report No. 1	May 1970
Operation and Maintenance Manual for Sepulveda Dam, Los Angeles River Improvement, Los Angeles County Drainage Area, California	December 1970
Revised Recreation Master Plan for Sepulveda Flood Control Reservoir, Los Angeles River Feature Design Memorandum No. 1	November 1973
Final Environmental Impact Report for Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant, Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles	October, 1975
Draft Environmental Impact Report for Sepulveda Basin Tennis Complex, Dept. of Recreation of Parks, City of Los Angeles	December, 1976
Supplement No. 2 to Feature Design Memorandum/Proposed Fiscal Year 1978 Recreational Development	February, 1978

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PART B - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted as companion document

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SUMMARY

1. Objectives. The Sepulveda Basin Master Plan is intended as a guide for the orderly and coordinated development and management of land in the Sepulveda flood control reservoir. In order to maintain the quality of recreational experience, the capacity of the land to sustain public use has been analyzed and, where appropriate, limitations have been imposed. The facilities have been planned to meet the recreational demand while maintaining the character of the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. The facilities will be developed in harmony with the existing recreational resources of the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. The recommended objectives of the Master Plan are to:

a.) Support the project purposes of flood control and recreation.

b.) Provide diverse opportunities for quality recreation experiences that are compatible with the resource and which promote the optimum, not necessarily maximum, use of the resource.

c.) Protect and conserve natural and cultural resources and to mitigate for resources lost or degraded by project development.

2. Existing Conditions. The proposed draft master plan described in this report reflects the Sepulveda Basin as a regional park oriented to the population and area of the four districts surrounding the Basin: Encino-Tarzana, Reseda-West Van Nuys, Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks, and Sherman Oaks-Studio City. The Sepulveda Basin is the only large-scale public open space centrally located to the 335,000 people living in the four districts. Approximately 880 acres are presently used for recreation purposes, and 150 acres for non-recreation uses, and 390 acres for agriculture. The remaining land is occupied by roads, rights-of-way, and flood control structures or is unused. The principal recreation uses are: three golf courses, 500 acres; Woodley Park (picnicking and informal play areas), 80 acres; Balboa Sports Center (tennis, soccer, archery, and other playfield areas), 80 acres; Hjelte Park Phase I (soccer and other playfields), 25 acres; wildlife refuge, 48 acres; model airplane area, 31 acres; and Little League ballfield sites, 55 acres. The Encino Velodrome, a privately operated cycling facility, is part of the Franklin Field Little League area. Somewhat less than 40 acres are occupied by smaller uses such as a Garden Center, Youth Center and miniature golf concession. Twenty-two acres in the White Oak Little League field area will be withdrawn by late 1980, becoming available for future recreation use (and are thus not included in the 880 recreation acres noted above.) 50 acres of agricultural land has recently been removed for current recreation/wildlife projects.

3. Plan Proposals. There are approximately 540 acres of land available for future recreational use in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area, including 50 acres of the Los Angeles River Channel

itself between Balboa Boulevard and Burbank Boulevard. The proposed Master Plan contains proposals and ideas for recreational use of the available acreage. If the Plan were to be fully implemented, it would represent a 61% increase in the land used for recreation and related uses.

The proposed plan envisions 220 acres of additional informal park area, 20 acres for a community tennis and swimming complex, 25 acres of additional playfield area in Phase II of Hjelte Park, 60 acres of additional wildlife area, a 120-acre recreation lake and a 60-acre area for the Arts Park. Ten acres would be dedicated to a driving range and incidental improvements. A pedestrian-bicycle corridor of approximately 3.3 miles would follow the northern edge of the Los Angeles River and the proposed lake, linking the various park areas together across the length to the Basin. A 1.4 mile trail would also be developed on the south shore of the lake. The proposed recreation lake is being considered as the site for the rowing and canoeing events in the 1984 Summer Olympics. The intended source of water for the lake (approximately 212 million gallons) will be tertiary-treated effluent water from the Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP). Construction began in the fall of 1980 and the plant is scheduled to be in operation early in 1984. The expected daily output of treated water will be 40 million gallons. The Arts Park is intended to serve the San Fernando Valley area as a whole, providing both covered and open performance facilities, and artists' studio facilities in a park-like setting east of Balboa Boulevard. The Arts Park had previously been considered for a site at the eastern end of the Basin north of Burbank Boulevard. However, because the site would be subjected to frequent inundation during flood seasons the location east of Balboa Boulevard was determined in the planning process to be a preferred site.

4. Planning Process. The Master Plan study and the environmental impact statement/report for the plan have been prepared concurrently. The environmental analysis and wildlife management measures have been incorporated into the refinement of the Master Plan. Once the objectives and concerns of the agencies and the citizen organizations invited into the study were identified, a land use concept was established as a framework for the alternative plans. The concept for land use anticipates that land east of Balboa Boulevard will remain largely open, "natural," and low intensity in its use. Land on the easternmost edge of the Basin should be used for wildlife and conservation uses, recognizing the higher frequency of flooding expected in that part of the Basin. Land along and west of Balboa Boulevard, outside of the 100-year floodline, should be reserved for more intensive recreation uses. A series of plan alternatives were prepared, evaluated and reviewed with participating agencies and organizations, resulting in the proposed master plan described herein.

5. Relationship to 1973 Planning. The proposed updated master plan represents several departures from the 1973 plan, based on present program objectives and on concerns raised in the environmental analysis and planning process. The principal additions not included in the 1973 plan are a 120-acre recreation lake, expansion of wild-

life management areas, a larger allocation of land to informal park uses, and the incorporation of the Arts Park. The major elements described in the 1973 plan but not included in the updated plan are a large-scale tennis-raquetball complex with a tennis stadium, an aquatic center including a swim stadium (described, but not illustrated) and a fourth 18-hole golf course.

The development of recreational facilities has been coordinated with various Federal, State, and local agencies. Written assurances regarding finance and operation and maintenance participation will be given by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

6. Conclusions. The proposed updated Master Plan will accomplish several objectives. It will establish a distribution of recreation activities by intensity and type, related to the flood control function of the Basin, as well as to accessibility and the surrounding urban environment. It will provide park development for the San Fernando Valley, and in particular for the planning districts of Los Angeles in which the Basin is the central public open space. It will partially satisfy the demand for a balanced range of recreational facilities while preserving the environment and scenic qualities of the Basin. The initial array of park trails, multiple play-field uses and lake development described in the proposed Plan could be provided at an estimated annual benefit over cost in the ratio of 1.8 to 1.

7. Recommendations. It is recommended that the updated Master Plan be approved as a guide to the orderly development of the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. The Updated Plan will provide the basis for the creation of new recreational opportunities and will serve as a guide for the preparation of plans and specifications for individual facilities. Details of the Plan may change as conditions dictate, but the Plan should remain as a framework for the general intensity and distribution of recreation uses in the Basin. Design supplements will be prepared prior to each phase of construction, following guidelines and criteria described in this Master Plan report.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.01 PROJECT AUTHORIZATION. The Sepulveda Dam flood control project was authorized 22 June 1936 by the Seventy-fourth Congress in the River and Harbor Act of 1936. The analysis of design, dated 19 August 1939 and subsequently revised 1 October 1941, established the location and design of the dam and appurtenant facilities. Construction of the dam, spillway, and outlet works was completed in December 1941. The Corps of Engineers maintains Sepulveda Dam and appurtenant flood control facilities.

1.02 Acting under the authority of Public Law 387 (Seventy-seventh Congress, approved 27 December 1941) the Secretary of the Army granted the City of Los Angeles a license to develop part of the Sepulveda flood control basin for recreational purposes. Public Law 387 was subsequently superseded by the more encompassing Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1946. The latter acts provide nationwide guidelines for recreational development at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects; they also enlarged the amount of land leased to the City of Los Angeles for recreational development. Under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 22 December 1944 (Public Law 534, 78th Cong.), as amended by the Flood Control Act of 24 July 1946 (Public Law 526, 79th Cong.), two leases for recreational development were granted - one to the city and one to a nonprofit corporation.

a. The City of Los Angeles was originally given a 50-year license, effective 11 June 1951 through 10 June 2001, to develop 2,000 acres in the Sepulveda flood control reservoir for park and recreational purposes. The current lease agreement dated 5 January 1967 has extended the lease expiration year to 2017. Utility and military uses have reduced the land for the city's recreational development to about 1,527 acres.

b. In 1954, a lease was granted to the West Valley Youth, Inc., a California nonprofit corporation to develop 5.5 acres for use as a baseball park for children. This lease has subsequently been modified, and is currently leased under the name "Franklin Field, Inc.", for a lease period of 25 years, to an expiration year of 2004. the acreage is 28.3.

1.03 Under a new administrative directive outlined in EC 1130-2-121, the Corps of Engineers will participate with the City of Los Angeles in a cost-sharing program for recreational development; known as the Code 710 program. the current lease held by the city will be amended to allow Corps participation. This participation is desirable because it is in the public interest to provide recreational facilities to meet the recreational demand generated by an increasing urban population and because this demand can be satisfied more rapidly if the Federal Government cost-shares in recreational development. Further discussion on the allocation of funds under the Code 710 program can be found in the section titled "Cost Estimates."

1.04 PROJECT PURPOSES. The primary project purpose set forth in the River and Harbor Act of 1936 is flood control. The Flood

Control Act of 1941 incorporated the Sepulveda flood control dam into the comprehensive plan of improvement for the control of floods in the Los Angeles County drainage area. Subsequent Acts of Congress authorized a secondary project purpose: the development of the Sepulveda flood control reservoir for park and recreational purposes.

1.05 PURPOSE OF THE UPDATED MASTER PLAN. The updated master plan is intended as a guide for the orderly and coordinated development and management of all land and water areas of the project. Existing facilities are summarized, and a plan is formulated for developing project land, water, and other resources in the best possible manner considering costs, future recreational demand, and the carrying capacity of the project land. The master plan is designed to be updated every 5 years or revised as need be to keep up with changing needs and conditions.

1.06 PERTINENT PUBLICATIONS. A list of previously issued publications appears in the front of this report. The document that is most applicable to recreational development on Sepulveda flood control reservoir land is the "Revised Recreation Master Plan for Sepulveda Flood Control Reservoir, Los Angeles River Design Memorandum No. 1, approved November, 1973."

1.07 APPLICATION OF PUBLIC LAWS

a. Federal Laws. The following laws provide for the development and management of Federal projects for various purposes according to the intent of Congress:

(1) Public Law 534, Seventy-eighth Congress (The Flood Control Act of 1944), as amended by the Flood Control Acts of 1946, 1954, 1960, and 1962, authorizes the Corps of Engineers to construct, maintain, and operate public park and recreational facilities at water resources development projects and to permit local interests to construct, maintain, and operate such facilities.

(2) Public Law 85-624 (The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958) requires that any agency impounding, diverting, or controlling water consult with the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. The Department of the Interior would determine the possible damage resulting to wildlife resources, and the means and measures to prevent the damage and to provide concurrently for the development and improvement of such wildlife resources.

(3) Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977) requires that an agency must determine whether a proposed action will occur in a floodplain, consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible developments in the floodplains, formulate designs and project modifications in order to minimize potential harm to or within the floodplain, and prepare/circulate notice of explanation of why the action is proposed to be located in the floodplain, prior to taking such action.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.01 LOCATION. The Sepulveda Dam flood control project, comprising a dam and a dry-land reservoir, is on the upper Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley about 2 miles southwest of the community of Van Nuys and about 10 miles west of the City of Burbank; the project area is within the city limits of Los Angeles, California. The project is readily accessible by two major freeways - the Ventura Freeway (U.S. Highway 101) and the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) - and lies in the northwest corner of the junction of these freeways. The project area is also accessible from several other main traffic arteries: Sepulveda Boulevard; Ventura Boulevard; White Oak Boulevard; Woodley Avenue; and Balboa, Burbank, Van Nuys, and Victory Boulevards.

Lands at Sepulveda Dam are owned by the Corps of Engineers. The majority are leased to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for recreational development.

The usable, developable area comprises slightly under 1,600 acres of the total area of 2,150 acres owned by the Corps of Engineers. Presently 1,027 acres have been developed or are in the process of development, while 540 acres are considered available for future development.

2.02 PROJECT DATA. Sepulveda Dam was completed in December 1941 at a cost of about \$6,600,000. The project is an important unit of the comprehensive plan for flood control in the Los Angeles County drainage area. The Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area is a regional park and currently features dry-land recreational activities.

a.) Basin Hydrologic Summary. The purpose of the reservoir is to control runoff from a drainage area of about 152 square miles, including the San Gabriel, the Santa Monica, and the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Simi Hills. Rain falls primarily during the winter; little or no rain falls during the summer. Although the flood season is between 15 October and 15 April when most past floods have occurred, major flooding of the basin is rare. The project has never experienced a flood of the reservoir design magnitude. The 50-year flood elevation is estimated to be 702.0, the 100-year flood elevation is estimated to be 707.0, and the Standard Project Flood is 713.5.

The chart following indicates the history of peak flooding events in the Sepulveda Basin for the last twenty years:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Maximum water- surface elevation</u>
11 January 1960	678.03
11 February 1962	685.86
17 November 1965	688.90
29 December 1965	691.40
7 November 1966	687.00
22 January 1967	682.52
8 March 1968	686.82
25 January 1969	693.38

25 February 1969	688.24
6 November 1969	677.80
16 January 1970	678.08
28 February 1970	682.43
4 March 1970	680.95
29 November 1970	693.03
21 December 1970	689.50
27 December 1971	681.90
14 November 1972	680.32
18 January 1973	686.72
11 February 1973	688.38
20 March 1973	679.00
22 November 1973	678.75
7 January 1974	685.45
3 December 1974	688.33
3 February 1975	678.38
5 March 1975	682.65
9 February 1976	679.20
2 January 1977	684.36
28 December 1977	681.55
16 January 1978	685.78
5 February 1978	679.83
7 February 1978	679.38
10 February 1978	688.28
12 February 1978	684.12
28 February 1978	685.85
4 March 1978	697.65
15 April 1978	678.36
22 November 1978	679.63
5 January 1979	686.13
16 January 1979	685.10
30 January 1979	678.46
21 February 1979	680.42
8 November 1979	679.10
17 February 1980	705.10*

*Unofficial estimate for winter peak; 1979-80 flood data not yet officially compiled.

b.) General Character. The Sepulveda flood control reservoir is surrounded by residential development. About 2,150 acres of land are within the boundaries of the project. The surface area of water at the top of the raised spillway gates would be 1,340 acres.

c.) Project Structures. The dam is a compacted earthfill structure with a concrete spillway and outlet structure near the center of the dam. Additional details are given in the following paragraphs:

(1) The reservoir, used exclusively for flood control, has a storage capacity of 17,300 acre-feet at crest of spillway gates raised (elevation 710 feet). The Standard Project Flood inflow of 50,000 c.f.s. can be reduced to a peak outflow of about 41,300 c.f.s. However, the reservoir is regarded as deficient in that channel capacity just below the dam is only about 17,000 c.f.s.

It is possible that changes in reservoir project operation will have to take place in the future. The Sepulveda Basin is one element of a comprehensive flood control system for metropolitan Los Angeles, and recent review has indicated that the overall system may not provide the high degree of flood protection set forth in Federal guidelines for urban areas. Consequently, the operating plan for Sepulveda Dam could be modified at a future time to afford higher protection to downstream areas. This could result in more frequent inundation of land in the reservoir area.

(2) The dam, consisting of an unzoned, random impervious rolled-earth embankment and a reinforced-concrete spillway and outlet structure, is 15,444 feet long. The embankment has a maximum height of 57 feet above the original ground surface. The upstream slope is 1:3 and the downstream slope is 1:4, with a 20-foot wide berm at elevation 710, a top width of 30 feet, and a volume of 2,541,000 cubic yards.

(3) The spillway is an overflow gravity section, 399 feet long, with a discharge capacity of 108,000 c.f.s. at spillway-design surcharge level of 717.6. The spillway crest is at elevation 700 feet, with an overall length of 459 feet which includes seven 57-foot bays interspersed with piers six feet high by ten feet wide. Each bay has a ten-foot high drum gate, permitting maximum storage level in the reservoir to elevation 710 when the crest drum gates are in the raised position.

(4) The outlet works are at the right of the spillway section in the central part of the dam. There are four gated outlets, 6 feet wide by 9 feet high, and four ungated outlets, 6 feet wide by 6.5 feet high, with invert and gate sills, all at stream bed elevations 668 feet. The combined capacity of the outlets, with the water surface at the top of the spillway gates fully raised, is 16,500 c.f.s. These outlets discharge through eight separate conduits, 40 feet long, into a rectangular outlet channel, tapering in width from 83 to 50 feet, bordering at the right side of the spillway. Beyond the end of the spillway, the channel continues 50 feet wide for about 1,840 feet downstream.

(5) Access Roads. Access to the dam and flood control reservoir is from Burbank Boulevard, a city street running east and west through the flood control basin. Other access roads include the Haskell Avenue west-bound on-ramp to the Ventura Freeway, Woodley Avenue, and Victory and Balboa Boulevards.

2.03 The pertinent data on the flood control project are given in Table 1.

2.04 RESERVOIR OPERATION. As previously mentioned, the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area is primarily a dry-land recreational area. There is no permanent water storage pool. The area-capacity curves for flood control, as they relate to recreational facilities, are shown in Figure 13. Area-capacity curves are based upon 1961 surveys and will be updated once new topographic surveys of the basin are completed.

2.05 EXISTING RECREATION USE. Existing developments within the basin consist mainly of public golf courses, little league and public baseball fields, a landscaped public park, a model airplane center, multipurpose

open playfields, public tennis courts, and 7.6 miles of off-street bicycle trail. Most of these facilities were developed by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks; a few were developed jointly by the City and the US Army Corps of Engineers under the Code 710 cost-sharing program.

The following table summarizes the main existing recreation uses featured at Sepulveda Dam and the approximate acreage allocated to those uses.

Golf courses (3, 18-hole)	500 acres
Woodley Park	80 acres
Hjelte Park I (under const.)	25 acres
Balboa Sports Center	80 acres
Wildlife Refuge	48 acres
Model Airfield	31 acres
Litte League Fields	
Franklin Field	33 acres
Victory Boulevard Field	9 acres
Hayvenhurst Field	13 acres
White Oak Avenue Field	22 acres*
Garden Center	16 acres
Youth Center	15 acres
Miniature Golf Concession	6 acres
Bike Path (7.6 miles)	11 acres
Recreation Parking (paved)	<u>15 acres</u>
	904 acres

* to be withdrawn

2.02 FACILITIES PRESENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT OR IN ADVANCED DESIGN

There are four facilities in the Sepulveda Basin presently under development or in design, three of which appeared in the 1973 Revised Recreational Master Plan as "Ultimate Facilities". The fourth facility, the Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant, will occupy land that has been set aside under lease for the water reclamation use since 1969, and is thus not part of the land indicated as being available for recreation use. Following is a brief description of the scope of the four facilities.

Hjelte Park - Phase I 25 Acres
(nominal 30 acres inc. adjacent riparian area)

Hjelte Park (indicated as Burbank Boulevard Park in the 1973 Master Plan) is a three-phase multi-use recreation area scheduled to occupy a total of 90 acres of land south of Burbank Boulevard between Hayvenhurst Avenue and the Los Angeles River Channel.

The project is being undertaken by the City Recreation & Parks Department on land leased to the City under code 710 cost-sharing with the Corps of Engineers. The first 25-acre phase presently under development occupies the western end of the area set aside for the complex. Phase I contains 4 multi-purpose fields, 300 paved parking spaces, a ramada, a restroom facility, 15 picnic tables, one mile of access road, irrigation system, and landscaping. The principal use of the field areas will be soccer, softball and little league baseball. The site was previously used for agriculture.

Wildlife Management Area 48 Acres

A Wildlife Refuge (or Management Area) has been set aside by the Corps of Engineers on land in the southeast corner of the Basin contained by Burbank Boulevard, the Los Angeles River Channel and the Sepulveda Dam. A plan calls for preparation and management of three habitat areas -- a sage/grass area, a riparian/willow area, and a freshwater lake. The coastal sage and meadow habitat, occupying the northwestern part of the area, is envisioned as requiring relatively little preparation since natural succession should create the desired habitat within a period of about five years.⁽⁸⁾ This area would be developed with walking paths for wildlife observation, and will not be fenced off. The existing drainage channel bisecting the site will be widened to create a riparian/ willow habitat, in which natural succession will be supplemented by planting of willows on the western edge to separate the area from the sage/grass habitat. A small demonstration lake of 1½ acres has been developed to determine the ability of the soils to support the water body.

The northeastern part of the site is proposed to permanently accommodate the small lake, and shrub and tree planting to create a lake habitat for birds and other freshwater fauna. This area would be fenced off, but visible from a perimeter trail at the edge of

the site. Ultimately, outflow from the Reclamation Plant is expected to provide a constant source of water for the riparian zone. The site has been used for agricultural purposes.

3. Service Yard

4½ Acres

A service yard occupying 4-1/2 acres in a triangle of land east of the Sepulveda Dam and San Diego Freeway, and south of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks has been designed by the City to serve the recreation area, and is expected to be developed later in 1980. The facility will contain a warehouse/shop building, vehicle storage building, employee and area headquarters building for the Recreation and Parks Department, as well as employee and visitor parking. The site has been used for surface parking of cars and trucks under lease to an adjacent private owner.

4. Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant

80 Acres

The Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) is being developed by the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State and the City. The first phase of the project is anticipated to commence construction in 1980 on land that has been leased by the Department of Public Works since 1969.

The scope of the first phase is a facility to provide secondary and tertiary treatment for an average flow of 40 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater. All solids removed in the process will be returned to the existing outfall sewer for final treatment at the Hyperion Plant downstream, while treated wastewater will be diverted to the Los Angeles River Channel through a 108-inch line within the Sepulveda Basin. The objective of the facility is to provide mandatory full secondary treatment (the plant will actually provide tertiary treatment) and relief to downstream sewer trunk lines which now exceed or which will soon exceed design hydraulic capacities. A further objective, particularly important as it relates to future development of the Sepulveda Basin, is to provide a source of reclaimed water.

The project is the first phase of what is planned to be a three-phase complex with an ultimate capacity of 120 mgd. Phase II would occur in the late 1980s and Phase III before the year 2000. Phase I is estimated to cost \$69 million. The City Department of Recreation and Parks has previously requested that approximately 9 mgd of treated wastewater from the Plant be diverted for irrigation and new lakes in Sepulveda Basin. (9)

A service building, administration building, blower building and various filtration, aeration, chlorination and settling units will occupy roughly the western third to the site, together with a paved parking area with approximately 100 visitor spaces and 60 employee spaces, and an intensively landscaped Japanese Garden area of 9 acres along the northwest edge of the site adjacent to the Woodley Park.

The timetable for completion and operation of the 40 mgd facility, barring unforeseen delays, is approximately three years from start of construction.(10) The final environmental impact report for the SWRP was certified in October 1975 by the City Engineer.(11)

2.03 FACILITIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN THE UPDATED PLAN FOR THE SEPULVEDA BASIN

Twelve proposed recreation facilities have been identified for consideration as program elements in the Updated Recreation Master Plan for the Sepulveda Basin. In most instances, the proposed facilities represent a continuation of proposals described in the 1973 Revised Master Plan, with adaptations made to encompass current needs or objectives as set forth by the Corps of Engineers and the City Recreation & Parks Department. In other cases, the proposals represent entirely new elements not anticipated in the 1973 Plan.

In addition, there are five program elements for the accommodation of the 1984 Olympics events that were identified for consideration at the beginning of the study.

The summary listing of facilities originally to be considered (with initial acreage estimates) is as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| o Hjelte Park Phases II and III | 51 acres* |
| o Fourth 18-hole golf course | 165 acres |
| o Tennis/Racquetball Center with Tennis Stadium and Velodrome | 32 acres. |
| o Swimming Complex (Swim Stadium) | 5 acres |
| o Recreation Lake | 120-150 acres |
| o Corps of Engineers Visitor Center | 12 acres |
| o Arts Park | 80 acres |
| o Park & Ride/Bike & Ride Area | 2 acres |
| o Community Building | NA** |
| o Landscaped Park | 10 acres |
| o Ancillary facilities, including Woodley Golf Course Clubhouse and Balboa Park improvements | NA** |
| o Temporary accommodation of 1984 Olympic events: | |
| - Swimming in the swim stadium | |
| - Cycling at the Tennis Stadium/Velodrome | |
| - Archery | |
| - Rowing & Canoeing | |
| - Temporary Parking | |

* Nominal 60 acres inc. adjacent riparian areas

** Occupying land within established areas

During the course of the study, an investigation of future neighborhood and community facilities needs was undertaken, using the Public Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of City Planning as a basis for estimating the desirable size, location, and distribution of community-scale facilities, such as tennis, swimming, and gymnasium buildings (A detailed description of the characteristics

4.05 SOILS. (See also more detailed description in EIR/EIS.) The soils in the Sepulveda Basin are characterized largely by a high proportion of fine grained, silty clay material resulting from alluviation of the San Fernando Valley. Nearly all of the Basin soils are favorable for water management because of their low erosion potential. Such sedimentation as occurs in the Basin is due to the loose, exposed soils in the agricultural areas. Most Basin soils are suitable sources of general fill, but unsuitable for sand and gravel. The soils can, with compaction, be used effectively as liners for lakes and ponds. Due to the compactive qualities and low organic content, it is advisable that Basin soils be reinforced with nutrients and soil conditioners where vegetation is to be supported.

4.06 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. (See also more detailed description in EIR/EIS.) The Sepulveda reservoir is a man-controlled ecosystem utilized by a variety of small mammals, reptiles, and birds. Information supplied by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game indicates that the reservoir supports mammals, such as cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, and ground lizards. More than 120 species of birds, including waterfowl, songbirds, doves, sparrows, and crows, have been sighted in the area.

Although agriculture and wetland habitats in the basin provide food, cover, and watersources for wildlife, use of the land for flood control, agriculture, recreation, and government services makes the basin a disturbed habitat for wildlife. The two mile long soft bottom channel within the Sepulveda Basin is a unique wildlife and fish habitat along the primarily concrete Los Angeles River.

There are no rare or endangered species in the reservoir; however, the Los Angeles Audubon Society has identified the Blue Grosbeak as a resource of concern. While it is uncommon in the Los Angeles area as a whole, the Blue Grosbeak favors the river riparian zone within the Basin.

i) Noise/Hazards

Traffic has been defined as the primary source of noise at the Sepulveda Dam site. Noise levels are higher at points adjacent to vehicular movement, especially during peak hour traffic.

Additional noise and a hazard factor is presented by the operation of the Van Nuys Airport, which is located to the north of the Sepulveda Dam site.

j) Visual

The Sepulveda Basin can be described as a flat, open area, with no outstanding natural topographical features. The area contrasts visually with the unbroken pattern of urbanization on the surrounding edges. The most apparent topographical features are those that have been created by man as part of the flood control function of the Basin, principally the concrete and earthwork dam structure encompassing the eastern and southern edges of the site, reaching elevations of 40 to 45 feet above the base grade. The dam structure has the effect of visually screening from the Basin most of the contiguous segment of the San Diego Freeway and approximately 50% of the segment of the Ventura Freeway that is contiguous with the site. The Los Angeles River occupies a straight trapezoidal channel whose bed is 10 to 15 feet below the surrounding grade and 200 to 250 feet in width. Other than the winter storm season, the river is an insignificant flow at the bed of the channel.

The Los Angeles River is not visually apparent on the site, except when seen from the edges and from various highway bridge crossings. Tributary drainage on the site is channelized and undistinguished visually. Approximately 500,000 cubic yards of clay material have been removed from the area north of Burbank Boulevard and immediately west of the dam, with the resulting depressions designed to be the bed of a future system of small lakes around which park development is planned to take place.

The area of the Basin north of the Los Angeles River Channel is more open than the area south of the Channel, given that it is either in agricultural use or that the areas developed for recreation purposes do not yet contain a mature tree cover. South of the channel, particularly in the Encino and Balboa Golf Courses and the street edges of Balboa Park, the tree cover is full and mature, affording a visible green edge to the open areas.

The characteristic open-ness of the Basin affords handsome views beyond the adjacent urban development pattern to the mountains that flank the San Fernando Valley.

There are no significant architectural elements in the Basin landscape, with the exception of the various military reserve facilities occupying parcels along the northern edge of the site adjacent to the Southern Pacific tracks and Victory Boulevard.

IMPACT OF SEISMICITY ON PROGRAM ELEMENTS. Major structures will be subject to seismic analysis and design. Alternative A and the proposed master plan, in order, would contain structures potentially affected by seismic conditions. In both cases, the recreation lake would require berming and an outlet structure requiring conformance to seismic design standards. For Alternative A and the proposed master plan, the storage capacities are 1000 and 650 acre-feet, respectively, and the head losses under containment failure are 11 and 8 feet, respectively.

5.02 WETLANDS. Wetlands constitute an institutional resource by virtue of the Wetlands protection policy of the California Department of Fish and Game aimed at projects that could potentially alter, harm or destroy inland (as well as coastal and estuarine) wetlands. The wetlands occurring along the Los Angeles River channel, the Encino Channel, the Haskell Channel, the Woodley Channel and Bull Creek Channel are subject to the wetlands protection policy and are affected resources because of potential alterations resulting from implementation of plan alternatives.

IMPACTS ON WETLANDS. Wetlands in the Sepulveda Basin will be affected by the proposed master plan and alternative plans in the following ways:

a.) Effects of the Proposed Master Plan - The construction of the proposed recreation lake will entail the complete removal of the existing wetlands in the Los Angeles River Channel between Balboa Boulevard and Burbank Boulevard. Wetlands in the Bull Creek Channel will be affected to a minor extent by the construction of the West Lagoon of the lake. No other wetlands will be damaged or altered. Upon completion, the recreation lake will provide a 66-acre littoral and deep water habitat in the main channel and the lagoon areas of 34 and 13 acres will become pond-wetland areas. Additional wetland areas will be created in the form of ponds in Woodley Park (6 acres +) and the extension of the Wildlife Refuge (15 to 20 acres).

The short-term impacts will include removal of wetland vegetation and riparian habitat in the Los Angeles River Channel, but in the long term the proposed changes will result in:

- a more stable wetland environment due to constant flow of water
- a wetland where storm flow velocities can be mitigated by gently sloping lake shorelines above the water line
- an expanded and more varied wetland environment, including Potential for Marsh, littoral and deep water habitats.

b.) Effects of the "No-Build" Alternative - The "No-Build" alternative will result in no alteration or destruction of wetland areas in the Sepulveda Basin. Further development of the area presently utilized as a wildlife refuge will result in expansion and enhancement of the riparian zone. The SWRP reclaimed water flowing to and in the Los Angeles River will produce increased dry weather flow, making water more consistently available for wetland area enhancement and productivity. The short-term impact of the "No-Build" alternative will be negligible and the long-term effect will be positive due to increased and consistent flow of water into part of the Los Angeles River wetland. (This condition will apply to all alternatives due to the presence of the SWRP.)

c.) Effects of Alternative Plan A - The effects of implementation of Alternative Plan A on wetland areas will be comparable to those resulting from the proposed Master Plan.

d.) Effects of Alternative Plan B - No existing wetlands will be altered or damaged by implementation of Alternative Plan B. Existing wetland acreage will be augmented by the construction of small ponds in the area proposed for the Arts Park, new park areas east and west of Woodley Avenue and the areas proposed for extension of the wildlife refuge.

e.) Effects of Alternative Plan C - The effects of this alternative are comparable to those described for Alternative B.

f.) Measures to Mitigate Effects on Wetlands - Reaches of newly-formed lakes and ponds should be designed to emulate existing wetland conditions on the site by replanting existing riparian plant species and maintaining topographical edges. The regulation of new lakes and ponds will create a more stable wetland condition. Wetland environments should be created along pond edges in the wildlife management area extension.

5.03 WATER QUALITY AND WATER SUPPLY. Water quality of the Los Angeles River is an institutional resource as indicated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles River Basin (4B) which lists water quality parameters which should not be allowed to reach concentrations causing a nuisance or adversely affecting beneficial uses of the water. While test results for the Los Angeles River above Figueroa Street indicate that only nitrogen, of four parameters, exceeds maximum allowable concentration levels, it can be expected that water quality during storm events would be of a much lower quality, containing high coliform counts and high levels of suspended solids, nutrients, heavy metals, oil and grease. It is also probable that water quality in the Los Angeles River and tributary channels in the Basin is affected by the existing agricultural uses with their associated nutrient loading and sediment loading.

The planned use of reclaimed tertiary-treated water from the SWRP for irrigation and lake supply causes water quality to be a resource of concern and an institutional resource due to its regulation under U.S. Waste Water Discharge Requirements for the City of Los Angeles and the EPA (Order No. 80-20, NPDES No. CA0056227, revised 5/2/80). The expected quality and maximum levels of various constituents are within the parameters of the Water Quality Control Plan indicated above.

Water supply is an affected resource in that significant demands will be placed on the supply for irrigation and lake replenishment in the implementation of the plan alternatives. The San Fernando Valley is an arid region experiencing low rainfall (19.02 inches annually) and high evaporation of open water surfaces (47.45 inches annually). The resulting annual water deficit of 28.43 inches for open water bodies is indicative of the consumption levels necessary to sustain lakes and ponds. Irrigation information for the existing golf and park area in the Basin is based on billed use of domestic water from July 1979 to May 1980,

a.) Effects on Existing Uses Resulting from Implementation of the Plan and its Alternatives

Agricultural Land

Approximately 440 acres of cropland, used largely for corn production, will be lost with full development of the Basin. The agricultural land qualifies as "Prime Farmland" under the definitions of the soil conservation service. The agricultural use takes place under short-term, revocable leases and subleases, and is subordinate to flood control and recreational use. Its loss, nonetheless, represents a diminution of prime farmland, a food crop readily available to the valley population, a loss of livelihood to the farmers, and the reduction of a pleasant, contrasting amenity in the larger pattern of urbanization. Approximately 300 acres of agricultural land would remain in the "No Build" alternative.

The principal variant in the pre-emption of agricultural land is the pace by which it would be converted to other uses. It is doubtful, as a practical matter, that recreation development will occur at a pace that will convert the agricultural land very rapidly, so that most of the cropland could remain well into the foreseeable future. The most rapid pace and level of conversion would occur under Alternative A, in which facilities developed in time to accommodate 1984 Olympics events (cycling, swimming, and rowing) would pre-empt 250 acres of agricultural land as early as 1981 (the beginning of construction). Even if rowing alone should be developed, as in the proposed Master Plan, 200 acres of agricultural land would be pre-empted at an early time for construction of the lake and disposal of excavated material on the site.

Recreation Land

Existing recreation use in the Basin will be affected in varying degrees by implementation of plan alternatives:

Proposed Master Plan - The plan represents a displacement effect on existing recreation uses. Approximately 6 acres of the Woodley Golf Course and 40 acres in and near the model airplane area would be displaced with the recreation lake and park development, resulting in the need to reconstruct part of three golf holes and relocate the model plane runway and tethered plane pads to locations northerly on their site. The model airplane area will become more constrained.

Construction-related disturbance to the three golf courses, the model plane area, part of the bicycle trail and Woodley Park would occur for a period of 1 to 1-½ years while the recreation lake is in preparation. This would likely result in diminution of recreational use and a reduction in the quality of recreational experience immediately adjacent to construction activities during that period. The construction of new irrigation and lake water supply lines from the Reclamation Plant would entail short-term disturbance to the Woodley Golf Course and Woodley Park.

The development of community tennis and swimming facilities west of Balboa Boulevard is consistent in form and intensity of use with the notion of confining intensive use to the Balboa Corridor, effectively ex-

COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE

Issue: The costs of operation and maintenance should be detailed. Where will the funds come from and will this endanger other programs? Empirical data on operation and maintenance costs are needed. The total recreation system costs for the entire basin should be developed. If the lake is developed, the city will have to hire more public employees with increased taxes for salaries and pensions. (Interest Groups (Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter, Coalition to Save the Sepulveda Basin), Private Citizen).

Response: Operation and maintenance costs will be funded from the normal City of Los Angeles budget for the Recreation and Parks Department. Specific operations and maintenance costs will be detailed as each element of the master plan is funded for construction. In the past, all funding requests for operation and maintenance of new facilities have been approved without any reduction in the existing maintenance and operations programs. (See the Master Plan pages V-5 through V-7 and Section X).

The cost estimates and benefit/cost analyses have been expanded to include all facilities that are eligible for cost sharing by the City of Los Angeles and the Corps of Engineers.

Issue: The lake will be filled with debris in floods and will require dredging to maintain it. The removal of mud and debris during storms will be costly. (Interest Groups (Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter, Van Nuys Homeowners Association), Private Citizen).

Response: Much of the current siltation within the Sepulveda Basin is the result of deposition of agricultural soils from land within the basin. This deposition of mud will be greatly reduced as agricultural areas are developed into recreational parkland in the future. Additionally, since the upstream areas in the San Fernando Valley have been highly urbanized, relatively smaller amounts of debris and sediment are carried into the basin. Problems of debris and sedimentation encountered in Hansen Dam will not occur within Sepulveda because of the upstream urbanization. The specific costs and methods of removal will be detailed in a lake management plan for Sepulveda Basin. (See Appendix E pages 11 and 12 of the EIS).

Issue: It will be very costly to use domestic water to fill the lake. (Private citizen).

Response: Domestic water is not proposed for the recreation lake. Reclaimed water from the water reclamation plant will be used to fill the lake and maintain a constant flow of water for the long-term use of the lake. If the treatment plant is not constructed in time for use of the lake for the Olympic Games, domestic water could be used one time only to fill the lake. This will be a small, short-term incremental increase in the total amount of domestic water utilized and the cost will be greatly reduced since it will be paid for at the bulk rates currently charged to the Department of Recreation and Parks for landscape maintenance. (See Appendix E page 7 of the EIS and page VIII - 1 of the Master Plan).

IMPACTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND HABITATS

Issue: The lake would eliminate existing riparian habitat in the Los Angeles River. The destruction of riparian habitat to build an unwanted lake is irresponsible. Alternative sites are available for rowing to avoid the loss of wetlands; therefore, inclusion of the recreation lake in the Master Plan violates State of California policy. (Private citizen).

Response: Alternative sites were explored for development of a recreation lake that could accommodate rowing events. This is the only feasible location in the Los Angeles region and therefore does not violate state or federal policies. Additionally, significant mitigation measures will be implemented prior to and during the development of the lake to assure adequate replacement for loss of habitat and ensure enhancement of existing natural resources in the basin.

Issue: The blue grosbeak is a brilliant and uncommon bird. There is no guarantee it will reestablish in the new wildlife area. (Department of Interior, L.A. Audubon Society).

Response: Although there is no guarantee, there is a good likelihood that the bird will reestablish itself in more permanent, undisturbed habitat north of Burbank Boulevard. The blue grosbeak is not a rare or endangered species but is uncommon in this area. See EIS, pg. IV-8, sec. 4.03(f); pg V-9, sec. 5.05(a)).

Issue: The EIS has used the wrong data regarding wildlife resources. Two separate lists totalling more than 130 species of birds were submitted, but the draft EIR/EIS misrepresents this information by stating that "more than 50 species of birds . . . have been sighted in the area." (Department of Interior, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society).

Response: The final EIR/EIS has been revised to include this information. (See EIS, pg. IV-8, sec. 4.03 (f)).

Issue: Information in the appendix regarding fish and wildlife resources was not included in the Master Plan on the wildlife resource values within the basin. Although the basin is disturbed, the agricultural lands and wetlands provide food, water, and cover for many species. Water-associated birds use the wetlands in the reservoir. There is no mention that the Sepulveda Basin includes one of the few soft-bottom river sections of the LA river and that the arroyo chub inhabits this area. The river is perennial as well as having seasonal pond habitat. (Department of Interior, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society).

Response: The text of the Master Plan has been revised to increase the description of wildlife values and to add methods to ensure that existing resource values will be enhanced by future development in the basin. Information in the appendix provides support documentation to the Master Plan and EIR/EIS. (See EIS, pg. IV-8, sec. 4.03(f); pg. V-4, sec. 5.02 (a,f); pg. V-9, sec. 5.05 (a-f)).

Issue: The Master Plan does not protect and conserve natural resources and is biased toward recreational uses. Wildlife areas were only considered as mitigation measures. Wildlife preservation is only included in the Master Plan contingent upon the loss of riparian habitat in the Los Angeles River. However, the proposed mitigation measures can be implemented without the destruction of the Los Angeles River wetlands. (Department of Interior).

Response: The Master Plan text has been revised to state that enhancement of wildlife values will be encouraged in all future developments. The wording has been changed to state that wildlife management will occur even if the lake is not constructed. Wildlife areas are not simply mitigation measures but are integral parts of the plan in and of themselves. (See Master Plan).

Issue: Only the "no build" alternative is favored to protect natural resources. (Department of Interior, Homeowners groups, Private Citizens).

Response: The "no build" alternative was considered in the planning process but was rejected because it would not increase future recreational opportunities in Sepulveda Basin. (See pg. I-3, sec. 1.04(a)).

Issue: Further consultation is needed in order to protect and enhance wildlife resources values on federal lands. (Department of Interior).

Resource: In response to the Department of Interior's letter, a field survey and consultation was conducted on January 21, 1981 between staff from Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the consultant. Extensive discussion resulted in numerous changes in the Master Plan to provide protection and enhancement of resource values in the basin. Coordination with wildlife agencies will continue during future planning and design studies. (See Master Plan).

Issue: Small lakes should be developed in agricultural fields as mitigation measures. (Department of Interior).

Response: Small lakes in agricultural fields would make farming more difficult and would not be feasible on a long-term basis since agriculture is only permitted as an interim use. Small lakes are proposed in the wildlife area to provide mitigation and permanent undisturbed habitat for wildlife. (See EIS, pg. V-5, sec. 5.02(f)).

Issue: There is doubt that the recreation lake would have much value for wildlife. The riparian habitat along the proposed lake will not be more valuable than the existing riparian habitat. (Department of Interior).

Response: The 120-acre recreation lake would have some wildlife value, and the proposed lake management plan would study ways to enhance its wildlife value. The smaller lake in the wildlife area east of Woodley Avenue would have the greatest wildlife value because it would not be subject to human disturbance. (See EIS, pg. V-4, sec. 5.02 (a,f)).

Issue: Wildlife areas should be developed prior to further development so that these areas will not be taken away later. (Interest group (Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter)).

Response: Wildlife areas will be developed prior to or during construction of the 120-acre lake to assure effective mitigation of impacts. (See EIS, pg. V-4, sec. 5.02 (a,f); pg. V-11, sec. 5.05 (f)).

VII. PHYSICAL PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

7.01 GENERAL. The objective of land use planning in the Sepulveda flood control reservoir is to separate various competing recreational activities to minimize conflicts between the activities. Planning also serves to assist the recreational developer to accommodate visitors and to provide desired activities. The generalized plan for development within the project taking line is shown in Fig. 11. The existing facilities and the initial and future developments planned for the Basin are discussed in the following paragraphs.

7.02 EXISTING FACILITIES

a.) Flood Control. As previously mentioned the flood control aspect of the project consists of the dam, the outlet works, the spillway, and the flood control basin. In addition to these facilities, the damtender's residence and several channels that separate various parts of the reservoir occupy the project lands. The damtender's residence is sited on about .55 acres. The Los Angeles River and the Haskell, Woodley, Hayvenhurst Avenue, and Bull Creek channels bisect and transect the flood control reservoir along with other side-drainage channels. The flood control structures may only be used for recreational activities if it is determined that the flood control function is not impaired or reduced.

(1) Some of the leases on project lands include various operational ones issued to the National Guard for an armory, to the Navy for a reserve training center, to the Air National Guard, to the Los Angeles City Department of Public Works for a proposed water reclamation project, and to the Los Angeles City Fire Department for a fire station. In addition to these leases, easements have been granted for waterlines, powerlines, sewerlines, storm drains, gaslines, and traffic arteries, such as freeways. Approximately 60 acres are leased for military facilities, 80 acres for the Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant, and 9 acres for the Los Angeles Fire Department (on Sepulveda Boulevard).

(2) Most of the areas that are not occupied by the lessees mentioned in the preceding paragraph and that are not developed for recreational uses are currently under agricultural leases. All agricultural leases are 5-year leases and are subject to withdrawal by the City of Los Angeles for the purpose of recreational development. The city's request for withdrawal must be sent to the Corps of Engineers before 1 May of the year in which withdrawal is desired; the Corps will notify the lessee before 1 June regarding the withdrawal, and the land will be made available to the city as of 1 November.

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VII-2

- (b) Victory Blvd. Field (9 acres)
One ballfield, parking lot.
Developed by Little League through City of Los Angeles
lease.
- (c) White Oak Avenue Fields (23 acres)
Ballfields to be phased out in 1980 (and available for
other recreation)
- (d) Hayvenhurst Avenue Field (13 acres)
Five ballfields, parking lot.
Developed by Little Leagues through City of Los Angeles
lease.
- (5) Woodley Avenue Park (80 acres)
(a) Turfed park, picnic sites, cricket fields, restrooms, grad-
ed parking areas, landscaping, irrigation.
(b) Developed jointly by City of Los Angeles R & P Department
and US Army Corps of Engineers under Code 710 cost-sharing program.
- (5) Model Airplane Center (31 acres)
(a) Open graded area for radio-controlled and tethered model
airplanes.
(b) Developed by City of Los Angeles R & P Department.
(c) Restroom developed jointly by City of Los Angeles and US
Army Corps of Engineers under Code 710 program.
- (7) Garden Center (16 acres)
(a) Plots provided without charge by City of Los Angeles for
vegetable growing by local private citizens.
(b) Gardener gives instruction/assistance.
(c) Enclosed structure.
(d) Developed by City of Los Angeles R & P Department and by
users.
- (8) Bicycle Trail (11 acres)
(a) Seven point six (7.6) miles of paved bicycle trail looping
around and through the basin.
(b) Developed by City of Los Angeles.

(9) Valley Youth Center (15 acres)

(a) Building, parking lot, bicycle motocross field.

(b) For social youth gatherings (parties, dances, counseling) under auspices of San Fernando Valley Youth Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.

(c) Subleased from City of Los Angeles.

(10) Woodley Golf-Course-and-Bike-Trail Parking Lot (7 acres)

(a) Paved parking lot for 300 cars.

(b) For use by Woodley Golf Course golfers, and by bicyclists as staging area.

(c) Developed jointly by City of Los Angeles R & P Department and US Army Corps of Engineers as Code 710 project on cost-sharing basis.

(11) Miniature Golf Course (6 acres)

(a) Sublease concession from City of Los Angeles.

7.03 FACILITIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR DEVELOPMENT

There are four facilities in the Sepulveda Basin presently under development, three of which appeared in the 1973 Revised Recreational Master Plan as "Ultimate Facilities" under the City's general recreational development plan. The fourth facility, the Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant, will occupy land that has been set aside under lease for the water reclamation use since 1969, and is thus not part of the land indicated as being available for recreation use. Following is a brief description of the scope of the four facilities.

a.) Hjelte Park - Phase I 25 Acres

Hjelte Park (indicated as Burbank Boulevard Park in the 1973 Master Plan) is a two-phase multi-use recreation area scheduled to occupy a total of 50 acres of land south of Burbank Boulevard between Hayvenhurst Avenue and the Los Angeles River Channel. Plans for future development of Hjelte Park have been revised due to frequent inundation during winter storms (see Section 7.04 below).

The project is being undertaken by the City Recreation & Parks Department on land leased to the City under code 710 cost-sharing with the Corps of Engineers. The first phase presently under development occupies the western end of the area set aside for the complex. Phase I contains 4 multi-purpose fields, an access road, irrigation system, and landscaping. The principal use of the field areas will be soccer, softball and little league baseball. (A description of the remaining phase of Hjelte Park is provided in Section 7.04 below.)

b.) Wildlife Refuge

48 Acres

A Wildlife Refuge (or Management Area) has been set aside by the Corps of Engineers on land in the southeast corner of the Basin contained by Burbank Boulevard, the Los Angeles River Channel and the Sepulveda Dam. The plan calls for preparation and management of three habitat areas -- a sage/grass area, a riparian/willow area, and a freshwater lake. The coastal sage and meadow habitat, occupying the northwestern part of the area, is envisioned as requiring relatively little preparation since natural succession should create the desired habitat, would be developed with walking paths for wildlife observation, and would not be fenced off. The existing drainage channel bisecting the site would be widened to create a riparian/willow habitat, in which natural succession will be supplemented by planting of willows on the western edge to separate the area from the sage/grass habitat.

The northeastern part of the site is to accommodate a small lake of roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and shrub and tree planting to create a lake habitat for birds and other freshwater fauna. Portions of this area could be fenced off, but be visible from a perimeter trail at the edge of the site. Ultimately, outflow from the Reclamation Plan is expected to provide a constant source of water for the riparian zone as well as for the lake. The site has been used for agricultural purposes. The area will be rehabilitated by local interests.

VII-5

d.) Wildlife Management Area Extension (60 acres)

The area north of Burbank Blvd. immediately west of the dam would, in this plan, accommodate a 60-acre extension of the Wildlife Management Area presently in preparation south of Burbank Blvd. The area is conceived to provide a more substantial setting for wildlife than is possible in the relatively constrained environment south of Burbank. The borrow areas created by previous removal of clay material would be maintained as constant lakes by diversion of reclaimed water, so that the basic wildlife theme of this area could be waterfowl. The wildlife area south of Burbank could, in turn, be dedicated to a larger riparian and grass land habitat. Observation decks should be provided in the adjacent Woodley Park extension across the Haskell channel to permit viewing.

This is proposed to be an Initial Facility under Code 710 cost sharing.

VII-10

8.10 LANDSCAPE. The proposed system of landscape will consist of continuous landscape edges along major streets and water bodies, as well as clusters of planting penetrating into the park areas to define and contain open play areas. Where buildings occur, planting in a zone surrounding the building(s) will be composed in clusters for maximum visual effect in moderating hard building lines and profiles. In the development of the extension of the wildlife area, clusters of trees will be planted at the base of the Sepulveda Dam to moderate the hard visual lines of the Dam and provide protective habitat for song birds and migratory birds. Residences on the perimeter of the basin can be buffered from noise and access from adjacent park areas with landscaped berms and fencing.

Modifications will be required to the Woodley Golf Course to accommodate the recreation lake, a series of streams and bridges, improvements to Woodley Channel and revision to the driving range north of the course. All golf course modifications will be executed by, or coordinated with, a qualified golf course architect to minimize disruptions to the course rating, skill level, or character of the Woodley Golf Course.

8.11 PLANT MATERIALS. The recommended plant materials to be used in Basin development are contained on the list following.

Plant Materials

Trees

Baily Acacia	(Acacia baileyana)
Silk Tree	(Albizia juliurissin)
Italian Alder	(Alnus cordata)
White Alder	(Alnus rhombifolia)
Floss Silk Tree	(Chorisia speciosa)
Deodar Cedar	(Cedrus deodara)
Carob, St. Johns Bread	(Ceratonia siliqua)
Camphor Tree	(Cinnamomum camphora)
Gums, Eucalyptus	(Eucalyptus spp.)
Shamel Ash	(Fraxinus uhdei)
Jacaranda	(Jacaranda acutifolia)
American Sweetgum	(Liquidambar styraciflua)
Southern Magnolia	(Magnolia grandiflora)
Canary Island Pine	(Pinus canariensis)
Aleppo Pine	(Pinus halepensis)
Italian Stone Pine	(Pinus pinea)
American Sycamore	(Platanus occidentalis)
California Sycamore	(Platanus racemosa)
Evergreen Pear	(Pyrus kawakamii)
Oaks	(Quercus spp.)
California Pepper	(Schinus molle)
Cottonwood species	(Populus spp.)
Elderberry species	(Sambucus spp.)

Shrubs and Groundcover

Sidney Golden Wattle	(Acacia Latifolia)
Coyote Bush	(Baccharis pilularis)
Carissa	(Carissa grandiflora)
Laurel Leaf Snailseed	(Cocculus laurifolius)
Red Clusterberry	(Cotoneaster parneyi)
Toyon	(Heteromeles arbutifolia)
Blue Pfitzer Juniper	(Juniperus Chinensis Pfitzerana glauca)
Andorra Juniper	(Juniperus Horizontalis plumosa)
Trailing African Daisy	(Osteospermum fruticosum)
Mockorange	(Pittosporum tobira)
Indian Hawthorn	(Raphiolepis indica)

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